

# *Town of Palmer*

Bondsville, Depot Village, Thorndike & Three Rivers

## Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report

**July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**



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## FACTS ABOUT PALMER

SETTLED	1716
INCORPORATED AS A DISTRICT	1752
ACCEPTED AS A TOWN	1776
LOCATION	About 15 miles east of Springfield on Rte 20
HIGHEST ELEVATION	Colonel's Mountain 1179 feet
POPULATION	11,771
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	7-Member Town Council Town Manager
TAX RATE – FY2010	
TOWN	\$15.61 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
FIRE DISTRICT TAX	
DISTRICT #1	\$1.21 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #2	\$1.82 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #3	\$1.79 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #4	\$1.80 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	Approximately 4,329
PROPERTY VALUATION	\$952,383,423
AREA	Approximately Land 20,110.00 acres; Water 457.5 acres; Total 20,568.4 acres; Square Miles: 32.14
HOSPITAL	Wing Memorial Hospital
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS	Approximately 150 miles
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Palmer High School Converse Middle School Old Mill Pond Elementary Pathfinder Regional Technical High School
FIRE PROTECTION	Four Fire Districts: Palmer Fire District 1: Chief Alan Roy heads a 32-member call force with a full time Captain and Lieutenant;

	Three Rivers Fire District 2: Chief Patrick O'Connor heads a 34-member call force;
	Bondsville Fire District 3: Chief Scott Gustafson heads a 26-member call force;
	Thorndike Fire and Water District 4 is protected by Palmer Fire District 1.
TRANSPORTATION	PVTA Village Bus, Peter Pan Bus (Walnut Street, Palmer), Council on Aging Van for transportation for seniors.
POLICE	Well established full-time police department and Emergency Dispatch center headed by Chief of Police, Robert Frydryk
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Walter (Beebe) Chase Memorial Park, Legion Field, Eager Playground, Palmer, Nick Laviolette Park, Three Rivers, plus playground and recreational equipment at Three Rivers Common, and Endelson Playground, Bondsville.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	1455 North Main Street, Palmer

**GOVERNMENTAL DISTRICT  
AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE  
TOWN OF PALMER**

**UNITED STATES SENATORS**

Scott Brown, Republican  
John F. Kerry, Democrat

**REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S. CONGRESS**

Second Congressional District  
Richard E. Neal

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Seventh Councilor District  
Jennie Caissie

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT**

Worcester, Hampden, Franklin  
and  
Hampshire Senatorial District  
Stephen M. Brewer

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

First Hampden Representative District

Todd M. Smola

**HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Mark G. Mastroianni, Springfield

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Antonio Andre, Chairman

Russell Brown

Norman Z. Czech

Dennis Fountain

Ingrid Thompson

Gary Doane, Alt.

Walter Solzak, Alt.

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Lawrence M. Jasak

Michael J. Burns

Beverly Morin-Lizak

**BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

Susan Coache

Chester Toper

Rose Tyburski

Margaret Higgins

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Paul Benard, Chairman

John Lukaskiewicz

Jayne Heede

Lorri McCool, Health Agent

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Robert J. Ring, Chairman

Donald R. Duffy

Peter Izyk

Matthew Trybus

Dennis Cote

Glen Colbum, Health Agent

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

Mary Hubert

Linda Lamay

Dorothy Nadolski

Ernest Charland

Genevieve Bates  
Peggy Corriveau  
Betty Koss  
Gloria Brouillette  
Debbie Nathanson  
Ruth Manning

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emer. Mgt. Director – Donald C. Elliott, Jr.  
Officer Kenneth White  
Fire Chief (Alan Roy)  
Fire Chief (Scott Gustafson)  
Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)  
Dispatcher (Tammy Piechota)  
Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)  
Board of Health Rep (Paul Benard)  
Hospital Rep. (Vacant)  
Palmer Water District (James Ammann)  
Thorndike Water District (M. Marciniec)  
Three Rivers Water District (J. Sasur Jr.)  
Bondsville Water District (Gary Pierce)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alice Davey, Community Development Director  
Linda Leduc, Planner  
Beverly Morin-Lizak, Assessor  
John Kuzmiski, Accountant  
Charles Blanchard, Town Manager

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Robert Ring, Chairman  
Marion P. Lis, Treasurer  
Stephen Nowak  
Harold Olson  
Eric Raymond

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paraprofessionals/Aides- Melanie Leibold, CMS  
Palmer Teachers Association – Deborah Charwick, OMP  
Palmer School Nurses/Clerical Workers – Richard Brown  
Palmer School Custodial Association – Peter Galica, CMS  
Palmer School Cafeteria – Catherine Les, OMP  
Palmer D.P.W.- Michael Moynahan  
Palmer Police NEPBA – Chris Burns and Paul Lukaskiewicz  
School & Town Clerical Workers UFCW #1459 – Richard Brown  
Emergency Telecommunicators – Tammy Piechota

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman  
Robert Frydryk  
Dennis Gaudreau  
Theodore Simard  
Michael Magiera

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Board of Health Rep (Paul Benard)  
Conservation Commission (Glen Colburn)  
Palmer Ambulance Service (Dave Clark)  
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)  
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)  
Bondsville Fire Chief (Scott Gustafson)  
Three Rivers Water Dept. (John Sasur Jr)  
Capt. Palmer Fire Dept. (David Pranaitis)  
Palmer Water Superintendent (James Ammann)  
Chief of Police (Robert Frydryk)  
Emergency Mgt. Director (Donald Elliott, Jr.)

OPEN SPACE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Conservation Member (Donald Duffy)  
Town Planner -- Linda Leduc  
Planning Board Rep. (M. Marciniec)  
Council Rep. (Vacant)

PALMER CULTURAL COUNCIL

Christine Miarecki  
Eileen Benoit  
Mary Bernat  
Ann Wright

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Ronald W. Lemanski, Chairperson  
Mildred Jasak  
Margaret Higgins  
Russell Webb  
Victoria Miner

PALMER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Blake Lamothe, Chairman  
David Swirk  
(Michael Pajak – State Appointee)

SAFETY/TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)  
DPW Director (Craig Dolan)

Building Inspector (Richard Rollet)  
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)  
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)  
Bondsville Fire Chief (Scott Gustafson)  
Ambulance Rep. (Vacant)

## **TOWN COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **APPOINTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Barbara Barry  
Paul Burns  
Mary Salzmann

### **TOWN MANAGER GOALS COMMITTEE**

Barbara Barry  
Mary Salzmann  
Paul Burns

### **ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Donald Blais  
Paul Burns  
Phil Hebert

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE LIASON**

Barbara Barry

### **REGIONAL CASINO IMPACT COMMITTEE**

Karl Williams (primary)

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

### **COUNCILLORS AT LARGE**

Paul Burns (Exp. 2014)  
Mary Salzmann (Exp. 2013)  
Karl Williams (Exp. 2012)

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Philip J. Hebert, District #1 (Exp. 2014)  
Barbara A. Barry, District #2 (Exp. 2012)  
Blake Lamothe, District #3 (Exp. 2012)  
Donald Blais, Jr., District #4 (Exp. 2013)

### **PLANNING BOARD (4 YRS)**

Michael Marciniec (Exp 2013)  
Andrew Golas (Exp. 2013)  
Norman Czech (Exp. 2012)

Kathleen Burns (Exp. 2014)  
Thomas Skowyra (Exp. 2014)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (4 yrs.)  
Gary A. Blanchette (Exp. 2012)  
Muareen R. Gallagher (Exp. 2013)  
James St Amand (Exp. 2013)  
David Lynch (Exp. 2014)  
Robert Janasiewicz (Exp. 2014)

PATHFINDER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Exp. 2014)  
David M. Droz (Exp. 2012)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Town Accountant	John Kuzmiski
Town Planner	Linda Leduc
Town Clerk	Susan Coache
Community Development Director	Alice Davey
Veteran's Agent/Burial Agent/Graves Officer	Paul Graveline
Town Counsel	Charles Ksieniewicz
Building Inspector	Richard Rollet
Gas Inspector	Gary Stahelski
Electrical Inspector	Gerald Weston
Plumbing Inspector	Gerald Nichols
Constable	Robert Frydryk
Forest Warden	Alan Roy
Animal Inspector/Dog Officer	Wendy LaSage
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Joseph Serrato
Director of Public Safety	Robert P. Frydryk
Treasurer/Tax Collector	Paul A. Nowicki
Emergency Management Director	Donald C. Elliott, Jr.
Town Assessor	Beverly Morin-Lizak
Department of Public Works Director	Craig Dolan
WWTP Superintendent	Gerald Skowronek
Council on Aging Director	Erin Pincince
Hampden County Housing Services Advisory Committee	Jean Leonard
Palmer Public Library Council Rep.	Donald Blais
Palmer Public Library Council Rep.	Mary Salzmann
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Michael Marciniec,
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm. Policy Advisory Rep.	Craig Dolan
P.V.T.A. Advisory Council Member	Paul Burns
Environmental Certifying Office Hearings Officer/Building Code Violations	Richard Rollet

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **TOWN MANAGER**

I herewith submit the report of the Town Manager for the Town of Palmer for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, based on my appointment as Acting Town Manager on July 1, 2011, and as Town Manager effective January 17, 2012.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to all of the dedicated department heads, town staff, elected officials and numerous volunteers who serve on the many boards, commissions and committees for all of their hard work and commitment to make Palmer a better community in which to live.

The year began with the task of filling three key positions due to the retirement of Acting Town Manager Patricia Kennedy and DPW Superintendent Richard Kaczmarczyk, both of whom retired as of June 30, 2011, and Town Clerk Patricia Donovan, who retired in September. These three individuals had a combined total of over 90 years of dedicated service to the Town of Palmer, and we wish them long and rewarding retirements. In addition, our Town Accountant Valerie Bernier left for a new position in Easthampton.

Joining the Town this year were DPW Director Craig Dolan, Town Accountant John Kuzmiski and Town Clerk Susan Coache.

Fiscal year 2012 was very busy – and very productive. Some of the accomplishments of the Town included:

- The position of part time Recreation Director was filled with the hiring of Roger “Rip” Pellaton, who began his service with a comprehensive survey of the community’s recreational needs and very successful school vacation programs in February and April. The coordination of the popular Kelly Miller Circus in June and the planning of a five week full day summer program followed this up.
- Alice Davey, our Community Development Director, was successful in obtaining a \$900,000 Community Development Block Grant for housing rehabilitation and community improvements.
- The re-negotiation of the Monson Sewer agreement, which had been on-going for several years, was finalized in September and after thorough legal review was signed in 2012.
- Phase 4 of the Combined Sewer Overflow project was completed.
- A Request for Proposals for a Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation System on the Emery Street Landfill was issued in November that resulted in the award of the project for a 3.5 megawatt system to Borrego Solar. If this project is permitted and constructed, the lease payments for the use of the landfill will be approximately \$1.8 million over 20 years, personal property taxes will be over \$300,000 for the first five years of the project and the Town is guaranteed a fixed power rate for twenty years that is about 20% less than our current rate.

- The Town Council approved a feasibility study for a new Police Station and DPW Garage that was awarded to Reinhardt Associates of Agawam. As a result of this study the Council voted to place a debt exclusion question for the construction of a new \$7.4 million Police Station on the June Town Election that was approved by the Town. A Building Committee has been appointed, our architect Reinhardt Associates is working on the final design and construction documents and we plan to go out to bid for the project in January, 2013.
- On October 29 the area was hit with an early snowstorm that left the Town without power for eight days and resulted in over \$2.6 million of damage to trees in the Town's public ways. Our emergency response personnel, public safety and DPW employees worked tirelessly during this period under the direction on Police Chief and Acting Town Manager Robert Frydryk and newly hired DPW Director Craig Dolan to restore normalcy to the Town.
- Shortly after the passage of the Expanded Gaming Act the Town was asked by Mohegan Sun to enter into Host Community Agreement negotiations for a resort casino to be constructed on 150 acres opposite the Route 32 exit of the Massachusetts Turnpike. The Town has retained a team of consultants led by RKG Associates of Dover, NH to advise us in these negotiations.
- The Town Council entered into a Tax Increment Financing Plan with Polymer Corporation of Rockland, MA to relocate 78 full time jobs from Monson to the Palmer Industrial Park. It is anticipated that at least 20 additional jobs will be created during the period the TIF is in place.
- A job classification plan including a wage and salary survey was completed and after review was adopted by the Town Council in an effort to make wages more competitive with comparable communities.
- Town employees approved a change in our health insurance carrier from MIIA Blue Cross Blue Shield to the Fallon Community Health Plan, saving over \$300,000 in premium cost increases in FY13 and avoiding having to implement benefit changes to the plan.
- A contract to replace the 48 year old boilers and air conditioning equipment in the Town Administration Building was awarded to L. N. King of Springfield for \$244,549.00. A grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for \$169,000 will help pay for this.
- As part of the FY13 budget process a new Capital Improvement Plan was developed that will be managed by an appointed Capital Improvement Committee, and a Road Improvement Program rating the condition and priority for improvement of all Town roads was completed.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Town Council for their support and clarity in defining the goals and policies for our town government, and to Andrew Golas for the help he provides on a daily basis as Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager and the Town Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles T. Blanchard, Town Manager

## TOWN COUNCIL

Fiscal Year 2012 was a challenging but productive year for the Palmer Town Council. With the retirement of Patricia Kennedy, the start of the year saw the appointment of another Acting Town Manager Charles Blanchard.

Chief among the challenges the Council and the Town faced were the search for a Town Manager and ensuring the changes mandated in the new Town Charter were implemented effectively. The Council and Acting Town Manger Blanchard moved quickly to comply with the changes mandated in the new Charter including the appointment of a Recreation Director, an appointed Town Clerk and the appointment of a DPW Director.

The Town Council's search for a Town Manager continued into January when the Town Council hired Acting Town Manager Charlie Blanchard as Palmer's third Town Manager. Town Manager Blanchard and the Town Council have demonstrated the ability to work well together and have developed a strong working relationship. Among the accomplishments of the last year

- Completion of the work on roofs for all three schools.
- Heating System improvements were begun for all three schools and Town Hall
- Completion of a comprehensive review of the salary structure for all town Department Heads.
- Continued focus on collection of delinquent taxes
- The creation of a Capital Improvement fund
- Restoration of several town positions
- The negotiation of a TIF agreement with Polymer Corporation allowing them to relocate here creating an additional 2 dozen jobs initially and creating the possibility of many more jobs in the future
- A successful debt exclusion vote for a new Police Station.

On balance 2012 was a good year for the Town of Palmer. Town Manager Blanchard and the Council have demonstrated the effectiveness of Council / Manager Government and the people of Palmer have clearly supported this as evidenced by their strong support of the Police Station debt exclusion. We look forward to working together to serve the people of Palmer well in 2013 and beyond.

Paul Burns  
President, Palmer Town Council

## TOWN CLERK

2011

### Deaths January

1	Edward Szczepanek	80
5	Stella Nowak	87
9	Nettie Bartolucci	85
11	Henry J. Bucior	84
11	Joseph L. Labonte	84
11	Charles Shaw	60
12	Paul G. Schmeichel	61
13	Roger D. Mislop	75
14	Howard V. Manley	88
17	Kathleen M. Dupre	62
21	Michael J. Koliss	57
22	Claire T. Rooney	92
27	Bernice Wawrzonek	90

### February

2	Joann C. Stockman	66
6	Mary A. Roman	95
7	George Sassen	95
8	Louis A. Schmidt	95
11	Ruth E. Glazier	91
12	Frances Holda	86
13	Kenneth P. Manley	84
17	Georgina McKerr	89
18	Chiyo Hogarth	85
19	George J. Hellyar	90
19	Donald L. Perry	76
21	Patricia Baczek	77
21	Harry J. Cournoites	89
24	E. Ruth King	91
27	John F. Riley	90
28	Victoria H. Jablonski	100

### March

1	Andree E. Crowley	79
1	Marion S. Stoddard	82
2	Robert E. Pease	92
6	Marlene A. Wajda	56

7	Edwin M. Wilga	88
12	Genevieve C. Karetta	85
13	Chester L. Majka	92
14	Lydia L. DeRosier	27 min.
14	Josephine H. Kibbe	89
16	Ezaura Silva	87
16	Marilyn E. Stred	76
17	Molly E. Sippin	91
23	Charles L. Reagan	82
24	Licia Brown	84
24	Barbara A. Caster	71
25	Irene E. McLaughlin	77
27	Patricia A. Combs	71
27	Michael H. Darling	56
30	Richard C. Brodowski	76
30	Gaye L. Heyburn	57

#### April

2	Herbert P. Frappier	60
3	June E. Pratt	86
7	Rosalie E. Carey	82
9	Mary M. Hickey	54
9	Claire R. Riel	81
10	Madeline LaFromboise	77
10	David E. Johnson	82
11	George R. Bissonnette	62
15	Timothy F. Saba	47
16	Frank J. Augustine	92
17	Joseph Placanico	55
21	John E. Auchter	88
27	Roger G. Emery	86
27	Raymond R. Bisnette	71
28	Jeanne Griffin	93
29	Deanna J. Smith	38
30	Joseph P. Jambora	91
30	Ian R. Joyce	86

#### May

5	Stella H. Kulig	87
6	Irma M. Dagradi	94
9	Floyd W. League	89
10	Muriel L. Dean	82
13	Gertrude D. Zisk	93
13	George W. Ducomb	88

14	Nancy M. Davis	81
14	Dorothy A. Bingham	97
17	Raymond C. Hermanson	87
18	Stephanie B. Handzel	99
24	Henry E. Recor, Jr.	62
28	Scott D. Mallalieu	49
30	Alphonse C. Roszko	83
31	Laurie A. Kusek	49

#### June

1	Donald F. Rooney	59
2	Yvonne M. Gagne	82
6	Frances E. Fogarty	90
6	Joseph S. Geslock	76
10	Clarence A. Ogden	76
11	Josephine Bradlenski	91
11	Mary E. Dentzau	73
12	Jose I. Torres Gonzalez	60
14	John E. Glover	88
16	Helen Biskup	91
23	Stephanie V. Putz	88
24	Florence MacKinstry	93
25	Janice M. Mergeon Merwin	73
29	Edward W. Nietupski	83
30	John R. Ferriter,Jr.	73

#### July

3	Carminda P. Silva Calheno	91
9	Edward E. Mincy	50
11	Ellen A. Katawicz	87
13	Alice L. Morin	79
15	Kenneth Dube	55
16	Alice L. Morin	100
18	Evelyn Anton	92
18	Frances J. Denner	84
20	Robert B. Bishop	85
20	John Walker	64
21	Joseph D. Fitzpatrick	65
22	Shirley J. Sullivan	83
23	Kevin P. Hammond	75
27	Kendrick McKee	87

August

2	Timothy W. Sherman	25
2	Jacqueline I. Manseau	91
4	Martin H. Gay	72
6	Diane M. Gregory	46
8	Robert C. McLean	62
10	Eva E. Lebeau	68
13	Harry W. Lindsey	80
13	Kenneth Erlandson	84
16	Leonard E. Goland	77
19	Monserrate A. River	77
29	Vernon L. Bray	82
29	Harold Alfred Camyre, Sr.	82

September

2	Kathleen S. Meats	62
4	Michael D. Moran	52
5	Donna E. Matrow	62
5	Martha Cole	90
7	Diana M. Brainard	52
7	Robert E. Chalue	77
14	Barbara M. Austin	82
21	Myra G. Haraghey	99
21	Carolyn F. Ziembra	83
23	Frederick Hines	68
27	Mildred M. Robak	97
30	John D. Gilmore	56
30	Jeanne C. Amnote	80

October

2	James R. Moriarty	74
3	Edward F. Muller	71
5	Lorraine A. Milewski	93
6	Edwin H. Belcher	84
7	Joy M. Allder	61
11	Arlene E. Olejarz	77
13	Brent T. Reddy	21
14	Linda E. Chaiffre	64
15	Susan A. Nugent	64
15	Marjorie V. Harvey	76
16	Rose E. Kirk	90
17	Sharon M. Doyle	48
17	Mark R. Brunelle	44

18	Viola T. Bianco	88
20	Albin J. Chrobak	90
21	Pauline C. Charpentier	71
25	Edward M. Wozniak	62
27	Zora L. Leclerc	71
28	Irene R. Smith	61
28	Lillian Salaam	68
29	Kristine Cortville	46

#### November

1	Billie Anne C. Luna	22
1	Alfred Rys	81
1	Alan Stevens	57
2	John C. Ward	77
7	Kenneth B. Lech	64
8	Philip H. Dill, Jr.	83
11	Francis L. Shea	70
12	Rose R. Vignato	86
14	Thomas F. Marciniec	68
16	Wanda A. Squires	87
16	William T. Holt	69
22	James W. McLaughlin	74
22	Yvette Ditto	80
26	James A. Potts	83
29	Cheryl E. Dodd	65

#### December

3	Walter P. Grummell	59
3	Germaine L. Morin	94
3	Stella Quink	97
5	Helen T. Desrosiers	80
9	Mildred J. Jopkins	95
9	Mary G. Sevier	87
20	William D. Snyder	70
22	Mary E. Rusiecki	92
27	Joan E. Sullivan	78
30	Vernon A. Ostrander	68

#### 2012

#### January

4	Donald D. Pearson	82
6	Lila L. Haendiges	78

11	Judith E. Harris	63
11	Gilbert J. Surprenant	65
13	Juanita Nacsin	87
16	Nancy A. Cavanaugh	77
17	Heather Ann North	41
19	Walter T. Jensen, Jr.	72
21	Walter P. Lech, Jr.	67

### February

4	Ellen M. Haggerty	87
4	Pauline N. Pisarski	83
6	William B. Smith	86
6	Hedwig A. Workum	88
9	Anna Zieminski	86
12	Edward J. Bradlenski	90
13	Thomas J. Boylan	90
13	Brian W. Campagna	59
15	Charlotte J. Saucier	69
16	Stella L. Fotiathis	62
16	Jeannette B. Syper	100
19	Yvette S. Cloutier	90
20	Adele Kempesty	92
22	Theresa E. Wasiuk	58
23	Madelyn B. Ksen	90
24	Jessie P. Tyburski	89
26	Cynthia C. Henry	75
28	Barbara J. Conley	82
28	Donna Lea Record	59

### March

2	Gertrude C. Federico	85
3	Gloria Hickson	78
4	Laura E. Bohn	53
9	Shirley A. Boucher	83
10	Sarkis Toshikian	83
11	Eugene S. Wright	79
13	Doris L. Skomro	87
13	Sophie J. Gladkowski	88
17	Eleanor I. Skowronek	85
23	Joseph A. Wysmutek	91
23	Patricia Drummond	77
25	Lionel R. Benoit	89
26	Chester W. Pikul	86
28	Svea G. Swanson	86

29	Peter F. Roy	49
30	Norma G. Kusek	83

April

4	Patricia Beaulieu	81
6	Eleanor R. Germux	84
9	Jeannette C. Duffy	93
9	Robert J. Squires	60
10	Virginia A. Bressette	87
11	Kathryn M. Church	71
11	Sylvia M. Desforges	74
14	Helen C. Janulewicz	80
15	Robert F. Bordeau	66
17	Ruth B. Sheldon	76
17	Helen E. Zisk	80
17	Anna E. Desotell	92
21	Annette Breton	96
21	Natalie S. Pascale	47
21	William D. Rondeau	56
23	Anna S. Troie	85
23	Mary E. Ferrando	76
24	Walter J. Kusekl	94
24	Harry S. Smith, Jr.	63
24	Marguerite C. Skura	82
25	Robert V. Syrek	44
25	Helen L. Hibbard	80
28	Marie Sheline	94

May

2	Edward F. Russell, Sr.	89
2	Matilda Gola	88
5	Doris H. Belanger	83
10	Elizabeth Brow	81
11	Danielle M. Hugli	44
12	Lori L. Killian	48
13	Corinne A. Goncalves	61
15	Donald E. Lepine	74
16	Priscilla Lloyd	87
16	Mary S. Charwick	86
20	Joseph F. Halgas	69
22	Frank M. Hannum	77
23	Mark A. Walker	55

June

2	Richard M. Hogan	59
3	Bertha Kowalski	95
3	Stanislaw Koprek	66
4	Janina Mastalerz	93
4	Vincente Rojas	78
4	Esther L. Smith	88
10	Vincent O'Malley	83
10	Ruth L. Gray	90
10	Marita K. Riggan	65
11	Alice H. Cichon	88
14	Joseph R. Castledine	89
16	Omar J. Gagne	4
16	N. Anita Russis	77
20	Elizabeth L. Haley	99
22	Brenda C. McLean	64
24	Raymond Beauregard	62
25	Robert P. Siciliano	72
26	Geniveive F. Boidleau	90
28	Mary S. Ashe	84
30	Lori A. Grippo	52

July

2	Grace B. Jones	95
2	Rose A. Sroka	93
4	Lynn J. Paydos	28
5	Cecelia A. Nicholas	79
6	William Prendergast	84
10	Hector Pelletier, Jr.	66
11	Erma J. Taylor	88
12	Albina M. Duda	79
14	Theresa M. Cavanaugh	93
15	Marilyn P. Gilbert	79
20	Stephanie Libera	77
25	Lewis J. Kapinos	87

**MARRIAGES 2011**

January

7	Jeremiah J. O'Dean	Palmer	Jessica L. Walker	Palmer
16	Anthony E. Arventos	Monson	Faith H. Barrette	Monson

February

14	William O. Walker	Palmer	Jessica A. Reardon	Palmer
19	Jeremy J. Haley	Palmer	Amanda A. Veber	Albuquerque,NM

March

19	Nicholas A. Outhuse	Palmer	Gina A. Nardacci	Palmer
26	Eric H. Gulbrandson	Monson	Jaimie L. Walder	Palmer
29	Kyle J. Lent	Palmer	Valerie A. Macleod	Palmer

April

3	Craig M. Mahan	Palmer	Tabatha M. Przybla	Palmer
6	Martin A. Bray	Palmer	Marcy L. Hunter	Palmer
10	Larry Bryant	Palmer	Hope M.Adams-Harrison	Palmer
26	Amanda M. Hiersche	Palmer	Rebecca A. Matheson	Palmer
27	Daniel J. Mackenzie	Palmer	Denise Monette	Palmer
29	Eric W. Nareau	Palmer	Krystal E. Krejmas	Palmer

May

1	James B. Scheurer	Templeton	Karen M. Walsh	Palmer
7	Ryan R. Lavoie	Palmer	Rina M. Irizarry	Palmer
9	Richard J. Foote	Monson	Penny L. Pascale	Monson
21	Joseph W. Lawless	Maryland	Catherine A. Opiełowski	Maryland
28	Jonathan E. Underwood	Palmer	Heather L. Brunelle	Palmer
29	Andrew B. Joyce	Palmer	Caitlin E. Apenburg	Palmer

June

2	Joey Bush	Grand Island, NY	Lisa A. Koziol	Grand Island,NY
3	Karl M. Benware	Palmer	Deborah A. Mack	Palmer
3	Mitchell L. Carr	Palmer	Barbara A. Crafts	Palmer
4	Thomas C. McLeod	Warren	Luanne M. Zaik	Warren
11	Michael C. Smith	Monson	Deborah Paradis-Keith	Monson
11	Nathan G. Borowy	Southington,CT	Amber L. Haley	Palmer
22	George T. MacDonald	Bangor,ME	Kathleen A. Masotti	Coconut Creek, FL

July

2	Michael F. Borkowski	Palmer	Stephanie L. McCormick	Palmer
8	Eric W. Dziedzinski	Palmer	Amanda M. Gryszowka	Palmer

9	Travis T. Allard	Monson	Alexis M. Lord	Monson
9	Ryan M. McMullen	Palmer	Jaclyn A. Dupuis	Palmer
9	John W. Morrison	Brimfield	Shannon C. Donohue	Brimfield
10	Donald A. Gelinas	Palmer	Janet M. Herd	Palmer
15	Allen D. Skowyra	Palmer	Dawna L. Rossi	Palmer
23	Jesse L. Pobieglo	Palmer	Tracy M. Olearczyk	Palmer

#### August

5	Jeffrey W. Tripp	Palmer	Alison L. Wesolowski	Palmer
6	Steven C. Romanski	Palmer	Kelly M. Dane	Palmer
6	Ryan J. Novia	Palmer	Kristin B. Rathbone	Palmer
8	Margaret E. Reidy	Palmer	Cynthia J. Cook	Palmer
13	Antonio Pina	Ludlow	Alice I. Debarge	Ludlow
20	James L. Carson	Boothwyn,PA	Jennifer E. Long	Boothwyn,PA
21	William J. Twining,Jr.	Palmer	Rebecca J. Witek	Palmer
27	Christopher A. Bobowicz	Palmer	Julie M. Griesbach	Palmer
27	Lawrence P. Wallace	Palmer	Teresa C. Baker	Palmer

#### September

3	Frank A. Bruno	Florida	Teresa K. Holuk	Florida
3	Kenneth A. Malinowski	Ware	Faith R. Desrochers	Ware
10	Timothy J. Scarfe	Palmer	Sara M. Delano	Bristol,CT
10	James A. Brodeur	Palmer	Melissa M. Masi	Palmer
10	Brent W. Moran	Palmer	Joelle B. Zundell	Palmer
10	Brett A. Raymond	Monson	Katie D. Defoe	Monson
21	Charles A. Thomas, Jr.	Palmer	Kate E. Pincince	Palmer
22	Stephen A. Chobot	Ware	Shendel L. St.Laurent	Ware
25	Tharyn S. Nein-Large	Palmer	Paula M. Guimaraes	Palmer
26	Lester J. Lenski	Warren	Barbara J.Wilewska-Maciak	Germany
31	Matthew T.Gatesman	Chicopee	Cassandra R. Dagenais	Chicopee

#### October

1	Patrick Austin	Palmer	Megan Lee Bailey	Palmer
6	John Cipora	Palmer	Theresa A. Karnecki	N.C.
7	John M. Lindberg	Palmer	Lynda S. Harris	Pamer
9	Michael D. Hayward	Palmer	Ashley R. Koska	Palmer

#### November

11	Colin J. Kokosa	Palmer	Ashley N. Zebrowski	Palmer
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December

3	James M. Deiter	Monson	Roberta A. Bray	Palmer
16	Enrique M. Burton	Palmer	Julie Anne Surprise	Palmer
16	Emmett F. Rooney	Palmer	May Lynn Wyley	Palmer
29	Bryan A. Davella	Palmer	Antonella P. Vecchiola	Easthampton

2010

January

7	John J. Walsh III	Wilbraham	Samantha L. Murray	Brookfield
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February

4	Peter K. Minkley	Palmer	Ruth A. Before	Palmer
14	Scott Q. Ingelman	Palmer	Sianshu Tczin	Palmer
18	Jose M. Pimentel	Palmer	Elaine Shackett	Palmer

March

23	Peter G. Parker	Monson	Julie Ann Powers	Monson
31	Robert E. Vanzandt	Palmer	Stephanie Laflamme	Palmer

April

2	Derek J. Chandonnet	Palmer	Jamie E. Laferriere	Palmer
14	James E. Tenezzar	Palmer	Olga Ustiugova	Palmer
15	Scott R. Kuindersma	Palmer	Jessica M. Baldwin	Palmer
20	Richard M. Kuc	Palmer	Melissa M. Parker	Palmer
28	Russell S. Towle	Bristol,Ct	Lisa A. Ruell	Palmer

May

10	Irving R. Concepcion	Palmer	Shannon C. Fernandez	Palmer
18	Scott W. Flowers	Somers,CT	Mary P. Hurley	Palmer
29	Billy L. Lafrancis	Palmer	Carrie A. Germain	Palmer

June

1	Nycole M. Labonte	Palmer	Kelly M. White	Palmer
2	Marc B. McCarthy	Palmer	Debra A. Solomon	Palmer
2	Arthur E. Salsbury, Jr	Palmer	Tammy L. Brown	Palmer
23	Kimberlee A. Allain	N.Braintree	David A. Bonica	N.Braintree
23	Gary E. Kolbenschlag	Palmer	Peggy Lee Washburne	Palmer
23	Daniel A. Fisher	Palmer	Hillary L. Haynes	Palmer

24	Dennis J. Mallette	Palmer	Sue Ann Kuszewski	Palmer	
26	Richard E. Young,IV	Palmer	Allyson M.Kosuda	Palmer	
25	Jarred M. Talbot		Northampton	Hillary L. Kibbe	Northampton
26	Derek J. Beynor	Palmer		Theresa A. Mielkowski	Palmer
30	Michael J. Edgett	Monson		Katie E. Leydon	Monson

July

3	Richard E. Coache	Springfield	Kristy L. Knorring	Warren
6	Ayman E. Fares	Palmer	Miran W. Georgious	Palmer
9	John M. Bruno	NJ	Deborah M. Ciejka	Palmer
24	Brian E. Rumsey	IA	Chepina Witkowski	NH

August

13	Thomas C. Sandomierski	Monson	Tammy L. Lovell	Monson
14	Scott A. Browne	Palmer	Tammy M. Puleio	Palmer
21	Eric C. Haley	Palmer	Paula A. Perry	Palmer
23	Ali Ozdemir	Palmer	Tosha R. Pellerin	Palmer
28	Henry W. Hilliard III	ND	Karen L. Lizak	Palmer

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Palmer Conservation Commission consists of six volunteer members who protect the Palmer Township's natural resources under the local bylaws and the wetland protection act. Over the past 12 months the Commission has acted upon or issued the following summary:

70 Site Inspections
4 Requests for Determination
9 Notices of Intent
9 Orders of Conditions

The Palmer Conservation Commission has been conserving and protecting the town's wetlands and waterways for over 40 years. We express tremendous gratitude to David Johnson, the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, for his dedication and hard work. His wealth of knowledge and experience is invaluable to the town. We are *extremely* fortunate to have all the members, as they are great assets to the town.

The Commission will continue to work diligently to protect Palmer's precious natural resources. The Commission holds meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month; the meetings begin at 7:00pm and are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

David Johnson, Chairman
Donald Duffy, Vice Chairman
Robert Ring

Peter Izyk
Christine Beauregard
Matthew Trybus

## **PLANNING BOARD**

The Palmer Planning Board, consisting of five elected members, met regularly during the twelve-month period of July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012. It is the Board's policy to meet as often as necessary to conduct business deemed appropriate under General Laws and the Charter of the Town of Palmer, generally the first and third Mondays of each month if meeting space is available.

The Planning Department is comprised of the following elected members and staff.

<u>Elected Board Members</u>	
Chairman	Michael S. Marciniec
Vice Chairman	Norman Czech
Clerk	Andrew Golas
	Thomas Skowyra
	Kathy Burns
<u>Staff</u>	
Town Planner	Linda Leduc

During the past 12-months, the Planning Board held twenty regular meetings, as well as conducted numerous site inspections and review inspections. In addition to our own meetings, we have also had meetings with other Boards and Committees and have attended seminars and workshops to help better prepare our members for the positions for which they have been elected. During these various public meetings, the Board held hearings or acted on three Special Permits, seven Site Plan Approvals, three stormwater permits, granted one Finding and signed seven Subdivision Approval Not Required (SANR) plans that met current zoning requirements and therefore are deemed exempt from subdivision regulations. The Board also held hearings and made a recommendation on a zoning amendment enacting a one-year moratorium on lodging, rooming and boarding houses. The Town Planner and a member of the Board meet regularly with the Council's Ordinance Sub-Committee to conduct further study on these specific housing types and draft use regulations for this moratorium. Additionally, we have a Board member serving on the Land Disposition Committee charged with assessing the inventory of Town owned properties and their possible commercial re-use.

This fiscal year has continued to be a reflection of the downturn in the economy, as the number of permit applications has been significantly reduced. The Permit Extension Act from the Acts of 2010 extended all of the annual gravel removal special permits for two years so that renewal of them was unnecessary. The Board, however, continued to inspect all of the locations three times during the operating season and maintained current bonds, liability insurance and inspection fees. The board reviewed only three other special permits; approving two, one commercial sign on Main Street and access other than through a lots legal frontage on Gates Street. The third Special Permit for access to a lot via Willoughby Lane was denied. This lull in permitting, however, has allowed the Department to work on numerous other pertinent issues, many of which revolve around green initiatives.

The Board, through Energy Committee representation, participated in administering the ARRA funded grant for the installation of a solar thermal system on the Waste Water Treatment Plant as well as the Green Communities grant funded project for upgrades to the Town Administration Building's HVAC system. The Solar Hot water system was installed this spring and went on-line in May of 2012. The real-time production and energy savings may be viewed on the [townofpalmer.com](http://townofpalmer.com) website. Presently, we are in the process of replacing the boiler and chiller with efficient components and converting to natural gas. Most recently, the town was selected as a Solarize Mass community. This award allows us to take advantage of expertise provided by MassCEC and a small grant allowance to provide the residents of Palmer the opportunity to purchase residential PV systems at a reduced cost through the economy of scale.

Palmer was also selected to participate in an accompanying residential energy program entitled Mass Home MPG. This program assists residents with individual home energy assessments and offers rebates and no-interest financing options when purchasing the recommended energy efficient upgrades. More information on both programs can be found on the Town of Palmer website.

Economic Development is of course a priority for many Palmer residents and is also a concern for the Planning Board and staff. As an economic development tool, the Town of Palmer adopted the local option of Chapter 43D, also known as the Expedited Permitting Law, and designated five parcels as Priority Development Sites. In addition, the town received a technical assistance grant to conduct two extensive infrastructure studies. The Water and Transportation studies were finalized in the fall of 2008 and are available to both the town and potential developers as important development tools. There has been a modicum of interest relative to development of the sites; two are currently covered by a lease or option to purchase, one of the development sites has realized the development of an office building.

In March of 2012, the Department was contacted by Polymer Corporation of Monson, MA with inquiries in available Industrial space in Palmer as it researched locations to better accommodate their expanding manufacturing business. Having offices in Rockland, MA and Monson they considered a number of sites in MA and RI. Aware of the availability of Industrial space in the Palmer Industrial Park, Polymer was contacted by the Town Planner to advocate for their relocation to a site owned by Manchem, LLC. Through coordination with the Office of Business Development, the Town Council and Planning Board the town was able to secure a commitment from Polymer to relocate to 1 Third Street, Bondsville by obtaining incentives through the state's Economic Development Incentive Program, receiving a 10-year Tax Increment Financing Agreement from the town, and endorsement of a Waiver of Site Plan Approval by the Planning Board.

The Board continues to work on improving its site design standards and is currently updating the existing parking requirements and adding more sustainable design standards to the process. These will be implemented through amendment of our current Site Plan Review criteria. Additionally, in January of 2011 the Board completed writing a commercial solar ordinance, which the Town formally adopted soon after. There has been great interest in this area with one project approved and five more potential sites under consideration. With the ever-changing technology in the area of power generation and conservation and in consideration of the federal

and state incentives that are currently being offered, we continue to pursue promising programs that will benefit the residents by stabilizing our energy costs and replacing aging infrastructure.

In closing, the Planning Board would like to thank the citizens of Palmer, elected officials, town boards and the Planning Department staff for assisting us in our planning endeavors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael S. Marciniec,  
Chairman

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT

	FY12
New Single Family Dwellings	3
New Gymnasium	1
New Bunk Houses	2
New Five Bedroom Group Home	1
New Group Home	1
Additions to Residential Buildings	9
Additions to Commercial Buildings	3
Renovations to Residential Buildings	66
Replace Mobile Home	0
Barns	1
Carports	2
Decks	49
Demolitions	3
Garages	23
Pools Above Ground	16
Pools In Ground	0
Roofing, Siding & Window Permits	349
Signs	14
Wood Burning Stove Permits	30
Inspections for Specified Use Groups	44
Telephone Messages	2,000
Inspections	564
Occupancy Permits	55
Electrical Permits	277
Plumbing Permits	148
Gas Permits	99
Total	3,761

## BOARD OF HEALTH

### Permits

The Board of Health issued a total of 241 permits. The permits were for food establishments, body art, funeral directors, mobile home park, motels and cabins, recreational camps, septic systems, swimming pools, tanning and tobacco sales. The permitted establishments are inspected yearly of compliance. The permits generated \$15,464.00 in funds

### Influenza Immunization Clinics

There were 3 scheduled H1N1 Influenza Immunization Clinics and also visits made to shut-ins and homebound residents. The clinics were held at Divine Mercy Parish, Converse Middle School and Palmer Fire Department. The State cut back the doses sent to the towns and Palmer only received 140 doses. Wing Memorial Hospital donated supplies, handout materials and sharps disposal containers and disposed of used sharps.

### Housing Inspections

Housing inspections were done for the wellbeing, and safety of more than 300 residences. Violations of the State Sanitary Code, Minimum Sanitation Standards for Human Habitation are ordered corrected and inspected for compliance.

### Title #5 Septic

The Health Inspector is required to enforce all aspects of Title #5 Septic including witness percolation tests, review and approve septic plans and field inspect repaired and new installed systems. There were 18 Title #5 Septic approvals for the year.

### Emergency Preparedness

A shelter was opened at Converse Middle School due to the October 2011 snowstorm. The shelter was opened for 7 days and 100 residents used the facilities daily.

### Reportable Disease

The Board of Health followed-up and filed required paperwork with the Massachusetts Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention for the 50 cases of Reportable Diseases reported to Palmer. Chronic Hepatitis C Infection, Lyme disease, and domestic animal bites were the most reported positive laboratory results.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Benard, Chairperson  
John Lukaskiewicz  
Jayne Heede

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Palmer Community Development Department is located in the Town Administration Building at 4417 Main Street Palmer. The office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

The Community Development Department was established in 1991 for the purpose of administering a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Town of Palmer. Over the years the department has expanded its services by becoming a Local Rehabilitation Agency for the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, and by applying for and receiving grants from other agencies/programs.

### **Community Development Block Grant Program**

The Community Development Block Grant Program is funded under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. The primary objective of the statute is “*... to develop viable, urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low – moderate income persons.*”

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development encourages: programs which develop and preserve affordable housing; planning toward both resource protection and sustainable economic activity; downtown revitalization integral to community development; and community-based planning that assesses needs and identifies strategies for addressing those needs. Projects eligible for funding under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program include: planning; housing rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing; economic development projects which create and/or retain jobs; efforts directed toward rehabilitation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods, commercial areas and downtowns; infrastructure; construction and/or rehabilitation of community facilities; and public social services.

In July of 2011 the Town of Palmer was awarded a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$900,000. These funds were awarded to the Town of Palmer for the Crest and Hill Street Infrastructure Project, Design of the Rehabilitation of Endelson Playground, the Housing Improvement Program, Domestic Violence programs and general administration.

The Crest & Hill Street Infrastructure Improvement Project involves the design, construction, and construction oversight necessary to replace the existing water main, storm drainage system, roads and sidewalks serving Crest Street and Hill Street in the Village of Bondsville. The project will: replace 750' of existing 6" asbestos cement water main with 750' of 8" ductile iron water main; replace two (2) existing fire hydrants and install two (2) additional hydrants; replace 600' of existing storm main with 600' of galvanized storm main, reclaim and regrade 640 linear feet of roadway and replace 640' of sidewalk. This project is under construction and nearing completion. All water and sewer mains have been installed, the roads have been regarded and a base coat of asphalt has been laid, and all sidewalks have been reconstruction. Final paving is expected to be complete in October of 2012.

The Design of Endelson Playground project involves the hiring of a design firm to work with a group of residents to redesign Endelson Playground for active and passive recreation. The design is nearing completion and will be presented to the public in the fall of 2012.

The Housing Improvement Program will rehabilitate 10 substandard living units located in the Village of Bondsville. Once completed these 10 units will be safe, decent and affordable housing for the low to moderate income residents who occupy them.

Domestic Violence services involves Police Training, school presentations and resource materials, the creation of brochures, and providing a support group for survivors of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Task Force meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Palmer Town Administration Building.

In September of 2011 the Town of Palmer was awarded a \$32,643.98 Housing Preservation Grant from the US Department of Agriculture for the rehabilitation of 3 substandard living units in the Village of Bondsville.

In June of 2012 the Town of Palmer was awarded a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$837,335. These funds were awarded to the Town of Palmer for the installation of a Booster Pump to increase water pressure in the Crest and Hill Street Neighborhood of Bondsville, the Housing Improvement Program, Domestic Violence programs and general administration.

The Griffin, Stewart, Crest & Hill Street Booster Pump project involves the design, construction, and construction oversight necessary to install a booster pump station which includes a generator, 2 domestic water pumps, a bypass check valve, an HVAC system, electrical connections and a prefabricated enclosure. It is expected that water pressure will increase to greater than 35psi in those homes located at elevations of 415 feet or greater. Currently the water pressure within these homes at 28psi to 32psi.

The Housing Improvement Program will rehabilitate 8 substandard living units located in the Village of Bondsville. Once completed these 8 units will be safe, decent and affordable housing for the low to moderate income residents who occupy them.

Domestic Violence services involves Police Training, school presentations and resource materials, the creation of brochures, and providing a support group for survivors of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Task Force meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Palmer Town Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Alice Davey, Community Development Director

## COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Palmer Council on Aging/Senior Center is to identify the total needs of the senior population, to promote and encourage new and existing activities, to provide services and education to enhance the quality of life for elders and to assist elders to age with dignity and independence.

Senior Center staff is obliged to create an atmosphere that acknowledges the value of human life, affirms the dignity and self-worth of the older adult participant, and maintains a climate of respect, trust and support. Within this atmosphere, the staff creates opportunities for older adults to apply their wisdom, experience and insight and to exercise their skills.

### Council on Aging Board Members

Genevieve Bates, Chairperson

Ernie Charland, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Linda Lamay, Secretary

Mary Hubert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Peggy Corriveau

Betty Koss

Gloria Brouillette

Ruth Manning

Debbie Nathanson

Cathy Plouffe

Dorothy Nadolski

The Council on Aging provided a broad range of services to Palmer's 60+ population during the year July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012. The 2010 Census shows an increase of 133 citizens over the age of 60 living in Palmer. Of the 2,494 Senior Citizen's of Palmer, approximately 1,100 unduplicated elders received a direct service from the Council on Aging. The COA provided 11,653 duplicated units of service. Twelve issues of the Senior Center Newsletter were printed and 700 per month were distributed.

To care for the physical needs of our 60+ population, cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings available weekly with Ruth Amador, RN, Wing Hospital, audiology screenings, eye care, foot care, massage therapy, exercise programs, line dancing & balance classes were provided at the Palmer Senior Center. To meet the social needs we have card playing, bingo, dominoes, Wii games, cribbage, night time pitch, day time pitch league, painting class, crafts class, pool playing, once monthly breakfast, Depot Group, etc. We held a celebration for every holiday and our Annual 90+ Birthday Party and Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Cookout at Pulaski Park and Christmas Party at Amvets.

We also provide a free S.H.I.N.E. Counselor and lawyer once monthly. AARP sponsored Income Tax Preparation from February thru April 15<sup>th</sup>. There are various monthly programs available on issues facing seniors. Medical equipment was available to be loaned at no charge as needed and fifty eight individuals took advantage of this program. Wing Memorial Hospital provided the senior center with a nurse for 6 hours a week and she provided 523 services. The Arthritis Foundation certified instructor held exercise class one day a week. Scantic Valley YMCA provided instructors Mon., Wed. & Fri. for strength training classes. Lifecare of Wilbraham provided two instructors for Tai Chi class once a week.

A congregate meal program was held at the Palmer Senior Center, sponsored through Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. and the Council on Aging providing 2,271 Congregate Meals. The Council on Aging continues to provide supportive services to homebound elders. In Home Meals provided 63 frail elders with a hot meal five days a week, totaling 9,640 meals. In and Out of Town Van Transportation: 124 unduplicated passengers, including 8 passengers under 60 utilized this service. We have 2 lift-equipped vans in operation Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

1,332 Brown Bags were distributed to 111 seniors as part of the Western MA Food Bank Program for Seniors. Fifteen seniors received fresh vegetables from the Farmshare Program, part of the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture at no cost. They received \$10.00 per week worth of fresh vegetables for 10 weeks provided by Sully's Farm of Belchertown.

Tax Assistance, transportation, information and referrals, home delivered and congregate meals were also available to those under age 60 who are disabled. We allow those under 60 years to attend our social programs and exercise classes.

We had 57 volunteers with a total of 2,356 volunteer hours were donated to the Senior Center. If paid \$8.00 per hour, they contributed \$18,848.00 worth of service.

There were 98 deaths of persons over the age of 60.

#### **GRANT FUNDING: Total for FY 2012 \$46,032.50**

\$16,527.00 in Formula Grant money was awarded to the Palmer Council on Aging from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in Boston for an Outreach Service Coordinator and Activities Coordinator. An Outreach Service Coordinator accesses and assesses the 60+ population to all Federal, State and County Programs they may be entitled to. There were a total of 538 unduplicated units of service provided by the Outreach Coordinator and a total of 1066 duplicated units of service provided.

\$13,428.00 Title IIIIB Grant awarded to the Palmer Council on Aging from Greater Springfield Senior Services for the Outreach Position for 17 hours/week.

\$1,200.00 grant from Executive Office Elder Affairs Incentive Grant for "Matter of Balance" Program.

\$1,390.00 was awarded from Title IIIIB monies for exercise classes.

\$987.50 grant from the Palmer Cultural Council Grants for various programs.

\$1,500.00 donated by Friends of Palmer Senior Center for exercise instruction.

\$1,000.00 grant from Fallon Community Health for Health Related/Exercise programs/equipment purchases.

\$10,000.00 grant from Wing Foundation to purchase emergency kits for seniors.

The Palmer Council on Aging has a wonderful organization whose members work very hard at fundraising to benefit the seniors of the Town of Palmer. The Friends of the Palmer Senior Center gave generously to purchase items for the senior center in 2011-2012 Fiscal Year. Thanks for all your hard work to improve our senior center.

I would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and the Council on Aging Board Members for all the work that they do all year. They are very dedicated and caring people who strive to provide the best services for the elders in Palmer.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Pincince  
Executive Director

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICE

Fiscal 2012 saw an almost 50% increase of the average monthly caseload in regards to the qualification of veterans for "Chapter 115" benefits. As a result, the budget for "Veterans' Benefits" was increased 90% for fiscal 2013. The state reimburses the town 75% of these disbursements.

Under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Commonwealth provides a needs-based means tested program of financial aid and medical assistance for indigent veterans and their dependents, through the Department of Veterans' Services, administered by veterans' service officers throughout the state.

Qualifying veterans and their dependents receive necessary financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, heating fuel, and medical care, in accordance with a formula which takes into account the number of dependents and income from all sources.

Eligible dependents of deceased veterans are provided with the same benefits, as if the veteran was still living.

\* \* \*

While the main mission of the town veterans' agent is to administer these Chapter 115 benefits, there also continues to be a steady stream of veterans who seek to enroll in the federal Veterans Administration Healthcare System, and who apply for VA pensions and disability compensation.

As veterans' agent, I also assist veterans apply for healthcare with Mass Health and Commonwealth Care, as well as providing information regarding applying for Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, and fuel assistance.

My office also serves as a resource for distributing information regarding programs and resources for veterans seeking employment.

\* \* \*

In summary, the demand for veterans' services continues to grow, primarily as a result of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, limited opportunities for middle age veterans in the local economy, and rising medical costs for our seniors. Often it is a question of getting the right information to the right person, in order to utilize the benefits at hand.

\* \* \*

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul C. Graveline  
Veterans' Service Officer

## LICENSE COMMISSION

The following is a summary of the licenses and fees collected for the 2011-2012 year.

### All Alcoholic Beverage License:

Type	#	Fee	Total
Inn Holder	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Club	5	\$800.00	\$4,000.00
Retail Package Store	4	\$665.00	\$2,660.00
Seasonal	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Restaurant	13	\$800.00	\$10,400.00

### Wine and Malt Beverage License

Retail Package Store	3	\$520.00	\$1,560.00
Restaurant	2	\$520.00	\$1,040.00
Restaurant with Cordials	2	\$565.00	\$1,130.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman

Robert P. Frydryk

Dennis Gaudreau

Theodore Simard

Michael Magiera

## PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Palmer Housing Authority office and adjacent development known as Laurel Manor, is located at 13 Fletcher Street. The complex was first occupied in January of 1971. Laurel Manor consists of 48 one bedroom units. The Palmer Housing Authority operates under the State Chapter 667 Elderly/Handicapped Program. All rules and regulations are promulgated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, adopted by the Palmer Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and carried out by the housing authority staff. The staff consists of one part time Executive Director and one part time maintenance person.

Applications can be obtained at the office on 13 Fletcher Street or upon request. Currently applicants need to be 60 years of age or be an eligible handicapped/disabled person. A preference is given to local residents and local veterans 60 years of age. The current net income for eligibility is \$45,500 for one person and \$52,000 for two persons. As units become available they are filled from the waiting list of eligible applicants. Five vacancies were filled between July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012. Of those five, 1 person that was housed was a local veteran and 4 had local preference.

The Board of Commissioners consists of 4 members that are appointed by the Town Manager and one state appointed member. The Commissioners meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 P.M., in the community room at 13 Fletcher Street, to conduct the authority business.

The goal of the Board of Commissioners is to maintain the properties and to continue to provide clean, safe and affordable housing to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald W. Lemanski, Chairperson  
Mildred Jasak, Vice Chairperson  
Margaret Higgins, Treasurer  
Russell Webb, Assistant Treasurer  
Victoria Miner, State Appointee

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals received 1 application for a Variance to the dimensional requirements to the Town of Palmer Zoning Ordinances for the time period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

The Board held the public hearing in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, of the Massachusetts General Laws. The request was filed to allow construction of a building addition within the side-yard setback. As a result of the hearing, it was determined that the proposal did not meet the statutory hardships and was denied.

Income from the Board amounted to \$100.00. These fees are collected to cover the expense of the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonio Andre, Chairman  
Norman Czech, Vice Chairman  
Ingrid Thompson, Clerk

Russell Brown, Member  
Dennis Fountain, Member  
Walter Solzak, Alternate

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

This report begins at the end of October in 2011, when I was hired as a part-time Recreation Director. As part of the hiring process I was asked to come up with a proposed plan for the first year. The Recreation Department has stuck with that plan since.

Initially I had proposed a survey of the town to find out what they were looking for in terms of Recreation. After researching methods of survey and their related costs the Department proposed a plan to the Town Manager. The research suggested some form of prizes increased the response rate, so the Rec Department spent several weeks securing free prizes from local merchants. During this time the Rec Department created the survey and found places (library, senior center) that were willing to distribute and collect surveys.

The survey went out in January and we collected responses until the end of February (10% returned). All thirty donated prizes were given away to people who had returned surveys.

Based on survey response we offered school break programs in February and April. Eight programs in total, all at Old Mill Pond School, with attendance of 20 – 30 children a day.

While these programs were going on the Kelly Miller Circus contacted us about coming to town. After checking their references and finding a partner in Palmer Events Planning, to help with the details, we agreed to bring them to town. The weather was ideal and according to the Circus we did well for a first time host. Many residents indicated their satisfaction in the event and asked if it would be returning. We plan to talk to the Circus in December.

Most recently I ran a full day program for five weeks of the summer at the Old Mill Pond School. The Superintendent's office and facilities were very helpful in making this happen. This program was also in response to the survey. There had been an overwhelming desire to have the Burleigh Park programs of yester year return to Palmer. However the current state of facilities at Burleigh (no bathrooms or indoor locations for inclement weather) inclined us to choose Old Mill Pond instead. Again we had a daily attendance of 22 – 33 children for the five weeks.

Rip Pellaton  
Recreation Director

**DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE  
TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
FY 2012 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2011	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2013	Ending Balance
111	Town Council	Stipend Expenditures	-	1,200.00	250.00	1,450.00	1,450.00	-	-	-
			-	525.00	12,950.00	13,475.00	1,335.46	12,139.54	-	12,139.54
			-	1,725.00	13,200.00	14,925.00	2,785.46	12,139.54	-	12,139.54
123	Town Manager	Salaries Expenditures	-	194,468.00	(21,539.59)	172,928.41	126,561.52	45,366.89	-	46,366.89
			20.57	23,500.00	4,882.54	28,411.11	28,119.66	291.43	-	291.43
			20.57	217,976.00	(16,657.05)	201,339.52	154,601.20	45,658.32	-	46,658.32
130	Audit	Expenditures	-	20,500.00	-	20,500.00	20,500.00	-	-	-
132	Reserve	Transfers	-	20,731.00	-	20,731.00	-	20,731.00	-	20,731.00
135	Accountant	Salaries Expenses	-	64,287.00	(325.00)	63,962.00	63,458.69	503.31	-	503.31
			-	500.00	325.00	B25.00	767.20	57.80	-	57.80
			-	64,787.00	-	64,387.00	64,225.69	561.11	-	561.11
137	Central Purch.	Expenses	-	255,000.00	-	255,000.00	239,569.65	15,430.35	86.95	15,343.40
141	Assessors	Salaries Expenses	-	66,926.00	3,147.07	70,073.07	69,660.84	4,122.23	-	4,122.23
			-	9,575.00	3,482.82	16,687.71	8,372.98	8,314.73	-	8,314.73
		Revaluation	-	50,000.00	30,438.50	80,438.50	36,040.00	44,398.50	44,398.50	44,398.50
			3,629,89	126,501.00	37,068.39	167,199.28	114,073.82	53,125.46	48,398.50	47,726.96
146	Treas/Collector Tax Title	Salaries Expenses	-	131,010.00	1,201.85	132,211.85	131,860.42	351.43	-	351.43
			-	16,535.00	(427.83)	16,107.17	14,214.48	1,892.68	744.29	1,148.39
			774.02	10,000.00	41,707.30	52,481.32	24,935.13	27,546.19	26,772.17	774.02
			774.02	157,545.00	42,481.32	200,800.34	171,010.04	29,790.30	27,516.46	2,273.84
151	Laws & Claims	Salaries Contract	-	21,000.00	-	21,000.00	21,000.00	-	-	-
			-	10,900.00	-	10,900.00	5,800.00	5,100.00	-	5,100.00
			-	31,500.00	-	31,500.00	26,800.00	5,100.00	-	5,100.00
155	Computer Maint.	Expenses	-	92,322.00	2,800.00	95,122.00	68,455.26	26,666.74	-	26,666.74
161	Town Clerk	Salaries Expenses	-	71,534.00	3,415.00	74,949.00	69,486.93	5,462.07	-	5,462.07
			-	1,300.00	2,150.00	3,450.00	1,263.82	2,186.16	49.99	2,136.19
			-	72,834.00	5,565.00	78,399.00	70,730.75	7,648.25	49.99	7,598.26
162	Elections & Reg	Salaries Expenses	-	14,407.00	70.09	14,477.09	12,050.69	2,426.40	-	2,426.40
			-	9,200.00	(70.09)	9,129.91	6,247.01	2,882.90	-	2,882.90
			-	23,607.00	-	23,607.00	18,297.70	5,309.30	-	5,309.30

**DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE  
TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
FY 2012 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept No.	Dept Name	Function	Encumbered From 2011	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance To 2013	Encumbered To 2013	Ending Balance
-	171 Conservation	Expenses	-	1,100.00	-	1,100.00	252.85	847.15	-	847.15
175	Planning Board	Salaries Expenses	-	48,945.00	3,000.00	51,945.00	50,743.23	1,201.77	-	1,201.77
			-	2,260.00	1,400.00	3,660.00	977.78	2,682.22	-	2,682.22
			-	51,205.00	4,400.00	55,605.00	51,721.01	3,883.99	-	3,883.99
192	Building	Custodian Expenses	-	8,900.00	332.38	9,232.38	9,232.38	-	-	-
			-	36,250.00	3,900.00	40,150.00	40,083.35	66.65	-	66.65
			-	45,150.00	4,232.38	49,382.38	49,315.73	66.65	-	66.65
193	Memorial Hall	Custodian Expenses Bldg. Maint.	-	7,121.00	-	7,121.00	7,051.18	69.82	-	69.82
			-	11,000.00	2,800.00	13,800.00	12,518.27	1,281.73	-	1,281.73
			-	750.00	-	750.00	750.00	-	-	-
			-	18,871.00	2,800.00	21,671.00	20,319.45	1,351.55	-	1,351.55
210	Police	Salaries Expenses Contract Serv. Utilities Cruisers	1,153.00	1,672,440.00	(32,875.52)	1,640,717.48	1,597,742.47	42,975.01	-	42,975.01
			2,989.28	43,925.00	9,489.28	56,403.56	40,141.01	16,262.55	-	9,762.55
			-	51,900.00	20,428.52	72,328.52	59,328.52	13,000.00	-	-
			-	300.00	-	300.00	218.32	81.68	-	81.68
			-	32,000.00	159,967.71	191,667.71	61,099.78	130,867.93	-	-
			4,142.28	1,800,565.00	157,009.99	1,961,717.27	1,756,530.10	203,187.17	150,367.93	52,819.24
220	Forest Warden	Salaries Expenses	-	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	2,499.96	0.04	-	0.04
			-	100.00	-	100.00	100.00	-	-	100.00
			-	2,600.00	-	2,600.00	2,499.96	100.04	-	100.04
241	Building Inspec.	Salaries Expenses	-	48,459.00	3,000.00	51,459.00	51,451.82	7.18	-	7.18
			-	250.00	-	250.00	60.00	190.00	-	190.00
			-	48,709.00	3,000.00	51,709.00	51,511.82	197.18	-	197.18
244	Sealer	Salaries Expenses	-	2,750.00	-	2,750.00	2,749.98	0.02	-	0.02
			-	250.00	-	250.00	236.19	13.81	-	13.81
			-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	2,986.17	13.83	-	13.83
291	Civil Defense	Salaries Expenditures	-	3,500.00	0.04	3,500.04	3,500.04	-	-	-
			-	100.00	149.96	249.96	-	-	-	-
			-	3,600.00	150.00	3,750.00	3,500.04	249.96	-	249.96
292	Dog Officer	Salaries Expenses	-	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	18,000.00	-	-	-
			-	3,000.00	3,999.96	6,999.96	5,964.82	1,045.14	-	1,045.14
			-	21,000.00	3,999.96	24,999.96	23,944.82	1,045.14	-	1,045.14

**DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE  
TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
FY 2012 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2011	Original Appropriation	Transfers/Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2013	Ending Balance
293	Animal Insp.	Salaries	-	1,400.00	0.04	1,400.04	1,400.04	-	-	-
294	Forestry	Expenses	-	20,000.00	(6,425.00)	13,575.00	4,969.95	8,605.05	4,900.00	3,705.05
310	Schools	Salaries	1,733,296.81	10,343,447.00	1,733,296.81	13,810,050.62	10,776,609.21	3,033,421.41	1,300,124.60	1,733,296.81
		Expenses	75,206.08	3,776,519.00	75,206.08	3,929,031.16	3,853,825.08	75,206.08	-	75,206.08
			<u>1,800,502.69</u>	<u>14,122,056.00</u>	<u>1,808,502.69</u>	<u>17,739,061.78</u>	<u>14,630,434.29</u>	<u>3,108,627.49</u>	<u>1,300,124.60</u>	<u>1,808,502.69</u>
320	Pathfinder	Assessment	-	1,858,357.00	-	1,858,357.00	1,858,357.00	-	-	-
421	Hwy Admin.	Quabog St.	-	-	21,479.00	21,479.00	21,479.00	-	-	-
423	Snow & Ice	Overtime Supplies	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	46,206.43	(21,206.43)	-	(21,206.43)
			-	75,000.00	-	75,000.00	99,822.45	(24,822.45)	-	(24,822.45)
			-	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	146,028.88	(45,028.88)	-	(46,028.88)
424	Street Lights	Expenses	-	100,000.00	776.97	100,776.97	100,776.97	-	-	-
425	Railroad Crossing	Expenses	-	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00
433	Waste Removal	Expenses	-	13,600.00	6,525.00	20,125.00	20,123.01	1.99	-	1.99
435	Ground Water	Expenses	3,200.00	16,000.00	3,200.00	22,400.00	859.00	21,541.00	15,600.00	5,941.00
490	Public Works	Salaries	-	636,301.00	21,221.70	657,522.70	636,587.85	20,934.85	-	20,934.85
		Admin. Exp.	-	52,975.00	(1,613.62)	51,361.38	49,929.15	1,432.23	-	1,432.23
		Maint. Exp.	-	129,400.00	(16,839.49)	110,560.51	110,122.12	436.39	-	436.39
		Utilities	58.39	15,500.00	959.72	16,518.11	15,321.64	1,196.47	-	1,196.47
		Capital	-	6,000.00	2,042.99	8,042.99	4,319.68	3,723.31	-	3,723.31
			58.39	840,176.00	3,771.30	844,005.69	816,280.44	27,725.25	-	27,725.25
491	Cemetery	Capital	-	43,000.00	-	43,000.00	42,901.39	98.61	-	98.61
510	BOH	Salaries	-	21,733.00	150.24	21,883.24	21,883.20	0.04	-	0.04
		Expenses	65.00	600.00	65.00	730.00	594.89	135.11	-	135.11
			65.00	22,333.00	215.24	22,613.24	22,478.09	135.15	-	135.15
523	Human Services	Expenses	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	-	-

**DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE  
TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
FY 2012 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2011	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2013	Ending Balance
541 COA	Salaries Expenses		- 92,473.00	3,000.00	95,473.00	94,842.91	630.09	-	-	630.09
			- 1,200.00	350.00	1,550.00	1,487.81	62.19	-	-	62.19
			- 93,673.00	3,350.00	97,023.00	96,330.72	632.28	-	-	592.28
543 Veterans	Salaries Expenses Misc. & Ben.		- 11,000.00	84.61	11,084.61	11,084.61	-	-	-	-
			- 800.00	328.71	1,128.71	1,124.82	3.89	-	-	3.89
			- 120,000.00	82,586.68	202,586.68	200,584.53	2,002.15	-	-	2,002.15
			- 131,600.00	83,000.00	214,800.00	212,793.96	2,006.04	-	-	2,006.04
610 Library	Salaries Expenses		- 429,037.00	(19.06)	429,017.94	429,017.94	-	-	-	-
			- 231,953.00	19.06	231,972.06	231,110.53	861.53	861.53	(0.00)	(0.00)
			- 660,390.00	0.00	660,990.00	660,128.47	861.53	861.53	(0.00)	(0.00)
630 Recreation	Salaries Expenses		- 20,000.00	-	20,000.00	13,590.00	6,410.00	-	-	6,410.00
			- 8,000.00	-	8,000.00	7,977.57	7,202.43	-	-	7,202.43
			- 28,000.00	-	28,000.00	14,387.57	13,612.43	-	-	13,612.43
692 Memorial Day	Expenses		- 2,000.00	-	2,000.00	1,990.36	9.64	-	-	9.64
710 Debt Principal			- 474,896.00	-	474,896.00	471,814.01	3,081.99	-	-	3,081.99
751 Debt Interest			- 212,393.00	-	212,393.00	206,203.20	4,169.80	-	-	4,169.80
910 County Retirem.	Assessment		- 1,137,113.00	-	1,137,113.00	1,137,113.00	-	-	-	-
913 Unemployment			- 142,568.00	-	142,568.00	46,050.15	96,617.85	-	-	96,617.85
914 Group Health Ins			- 4,385,000.00	(4,000.00)	4,381,000.00	4,370,394.62	10,605.38	-	-	10,605.38
915 Group Life Ins.			- 12,349.00	-	12,349.00	12,209.40	139.60	-	-	139.60
919 Medicare			- 222,011.00	-	222,011.00	198,910.75	23,100.25	-	-	23,100.25
945 Gen. Ins.	Misc.		- 377,460.00	4,000.00	381,460.00	379,774.51	1,685.49	-	-	1,685.49
950 Stabilization Fund	Misc.		-	-	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	-	-	-
Total General			1,820,393.04	28,100,503.00	2,384,445.43	32,305,341.47	28,593,430.50	3,711,910.97	1,547,905.96	2,164,005.01

Cherry Sheet Assessments

429,185.00

**DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE  
TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
FY 2012 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2011	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance To 2013	Encumbered To 2013	Ending Balance
443	WWTP	Salaries	524,643.00	9,000.00	533,643.00	520,340.95	13,302.05	13,302.05		
		Expenses	44,158.87	38,158.87	846,517.74	778,272.12	168,245.62	24,618.24	146,667.38	
	Sewer Maint		-	181,329.00	181,329.00	160,139.42	21,186.58	-	21,186.58	
	Capital		-	75,000.00	44,000.00	119,000.00	98,481.01	20,518.99	-	20,518.99
			<b>44,158.87</b>	<b>1,645,172.00</b>	<b>91,158.87</b>	<b>1,780,489.74</b>	<b>1,557,233.50</b>	<b>223,256.24</b>	<b>21,618.24</b>	<b>201,638.00</b>
710	Debt Principal		-	340,896.00	-	340,896.00	337,814.02	3,081.98	-	3,081.98
751	Debt Interest		-	127,949.00	-	127,949.00	126,196.94	1,752.06	-	1,752.06
910	County Retirem.	Assessment	-	96,955.00	-	96,955.00	96,955.00	-	-	-
913	Unemployment		-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
914	Group Health Ins		-	120,000.00	-	120,000.00	106,853.54	13,146.46	-	13,146.46
915	Group Life Ins.		-	303.00	-	303.00	252.00	51.00	-	51.00
919	Medicare		-	7,589.00	-	7,589.00	629.13	6,959.87	-	6,959.87
945	Gen. Ins.	Misc.	-	30,780.00	-	30,780.00	27,492.32	3,287.68	-	3,287.68
		Total WWTP		<b>44,158.87</b>	<b>2,370,644.00</b>	<b>91,158.87</b>	<b>2,505,961.74</b>	<b>2,253,426.45</b>	<b>252,535.29</b>	<b>21,618.24</b>
										<b>230,917.05</b>
		Total General + WWTP Budget		<b>1,864,551.91</b>	<b>30,471,147.00</b>	<b>2,475,604.30</b>	<b>34,811,303.21</b>	<b>30,846,856.95</b>	<b>3,984,446.26</b>	<b>1,569,524.20</b>
										<b>2,394,922.06</b>

## ASSESSORS

### LOCAL EXPENDITURES

Appropriations	\$31,113,534.22
Offsets	30,246.00
Deferral of Teacher's Pay	0.00
Snow & Ice Deficits	372,910.14
Health Insurance Deficit	0.00
State & County Charges	354,383.00
Overlay	176,692.09
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>\$32,047,765.45</b>

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### ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$12,354,008.00
Massachusetts School Building Authority Payments	0.00
Local Estimated Receipts	4,384,665.00
Other Available Funds	310,122.22
Free Cash	132,265.00
Free Cash to reduce the tax rate	0.00
Teacher's Pay Deferral	0.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$17,181,060.22</b>
<b>NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>\$14,866,705.23</b>

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NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED / TOTAL VALUATION = TAX RATE FY2010

$$\$14,866,705.23 \quad / \quad 952,383,423 \quad = \quad \$15.61$$

## CLASSIFIED PERCENTAGES

	LEVY PERCENTAGE	LEVY BY CLASS
RESIDENTIAL	82.9951	\$12,338,636.67
OPEN SPACE	0	0
COMMERCIAL	7.4598	1,109,033.52
INDUSTRIAL	4.8683	723,760.77
PERSONAL PROPERTY		4.6768
		695,278.27
	100.00%	\$14,866,705.23

## VALUATION BY CLASS

RESIDENTIAL	790,431,305
OPEN SPACE	0
COMMERCIAL	71,046,350
INDUSTRIAL	46,365,200
PERSONAL PROPERTY	44,540,568
TOTAL VALUATION	952,383,423

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Beverly A. Morin-Lizak  
Michael J. Burns  
Lawrence M. Jasak

## TAX COLLECTOR / TREASURER

### BANK BALANCES

June 30, 2012

Financial Institution	Purpose	Balance
Century Bank	Stabilization Fund	\$71,814.52
Commonwealth Financial Network	Trust Funds	\$493,949.17
Country Bank	Community Development	\$23,423.21
Country Bank	Community Development	\$13,820.16
Country Bank	Community Development	\$62,838.85
Country Bank	School Lunch	\$1,633.82
Country Bank	Community Rehab	\$47,055.53
Country Bank	Diamond/Cascade	\$5,609.73
Country Bank	Arts/Lottery	\$2,602.45
Country Bank	PHS Student Activity	\$24,776.48
Country Bank	CMS Student Activity	\$2,654.31
Country Bank	OMP Student Activity	\$21,624.57
Country Bank	Tax Collector	\$1,793,640.15
Country Bank	Treasurer	\$1,089,787.20
Eastern Bank	Treasurer	\$6,934.12
MMDT	Treasurer	\$5,461.97
N.Brookfield Savings	WWTP	\$712,783.69
N.Brookfield Savings	Historical Commission	\$22,959.92
N.Brookfield Savings	Conservation	\$2,376.91
Peoples Bank	Stabilization Fund	\$776,211.97
Peoples Bank	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$200,901.08
People's United Bank	Investment Account	\$240,427.77
People's United Bank	Vendor/Sweep	-\$549,432.41
People's United Bank	Payroll/Sweep	\$2,820.54
People's United Bank	Stabilization Fund	\$262,219.52
TD Bank	Collector Lockbox	\$6,994.95
TD Bank	Collector	\$115,404.64
TD Bank	Treasurer	\$81,906.38
UniBank	Collector Online	\$34,714.33
UniBank	Planning Board	\$10,116.08
UniBank	Treasurer	\$757,745.61
UniBank	ARRA/EECBG	\$9,413.70
United Bank	Treasurer	\$501.61
United Bank	Treasurer	\$3,884,365.12
	<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>\$10,240,057.65</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul A. Nowicki, Treasurer

## PARKING CLERK

FISCAL YEAR 2012

54 TICKETS - \$1,815.00 PAID IN FINES

Respecfully submitted,  
Paul A. Nowicki, Parking Clerk

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, the Palmer Police Department answered approximately 16,944 calls for service. From these calls 2,131 criminal offenses were recorded and investigated. Additionally, 909 individuals were arrested and/or summoned to court. More than 2,066 traffic citations were issued and 308 traffic crashes, involving 490 operators, were investigated. These accidents resulted in injuries to 109 individuals. There were no fatal traffic crashes during this reporting period. A complete statistical report of the year's activity follows this report.

The department is currently comprised of 20 full-time and 4 part-time police officers, in addition to 6 full-time and 1 part-time civilian members.

The department received the following grants during this reporting period:

Traffic Enforcement Grant (Governor's Highway Safety Bureau) - \$7,000 to be used for speed, seat belt, drunk driving and red light enforcement as part of the state's "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink – You Drive – You Lose" campaigns. Due to tight fiscal constraints, \$3,000, which was to be used to purchase radar units and tint meters, was eliminated from the grant.

9-1-1 Training Grant (State 911 Department) - \$5,000 total award. Through this program, governmental entities hosting primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are eligible to receive reimbursement for training-related costs associated with the 9-1-1 system. Eligible awards are based on a rounded formula of 9-1-1 calls received and population served, with a minimum award of \$5,000.

PSAP Support and Incentive Grant (State 911 Department) - \$35,000 total award. The purpose of the State 911 Department Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC) Support and Incentive Grants is to assist PSAPs and regional emergency centers in providing enhanced 911 services and to encourage the development of regional PSAPs, regional secondary PSAPs and regional emergency communication centers.

Fiscal Year 2012 saw some significant weather events that challenged the delivery of public safety. In August of 2011, Hurricane Irene brought high winds, but less rainfall to our area than was predicted. This kept damage to a minimum and, compared to communities in Franklin and Berkshire counties, and in New Hampshire and Vermont, which suffered severe flooding and property damage, our area endured only minor affects.

Perhaps the worst event in recent memory struck our community, and most of the western part of

the state, on October 31, 2011. An early season snowfall dropped more than 18 inches of heavy, wet snow on the area. Compounded by the fact that many trees still had not shed their leaves, this heavy snow caused thousands of trees and branches to fall. Trees and branches fell into roadways and onto power lines, making most of our roads impassable, and knocking out power to the entire region. By the time the storm ended in the early morning hours of November 1, 2012, there was not a single building in town that had electrical power, and travelling on our roadways was impossible or treacherous at best. On this day began our seven day journey to recovery.

Our emergency shelter at Converse Middle School was opened. As many as two hundred people utilized the shelter for overnight accommodations and several hundred more stopped by daily for a hot meal or for shower facilities. Emergency Management Director Donald Elliot and our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), under the direction of William and Donna Mullen, worked tirelessly around the clock, along with our School Department, to keep the shelter staffed and stocked with provisions.

Due to the region-wide impact of the storm, utility companies were overwhelmed by the task of restoring services to individual communities. Restoration was slow at first, but once crews from outside our region began arriving, power, telephone, and cable services were gradually restored. It took just about seven days for electrical power to be restored to our entire community.

During this emergency our public safety and public works personnel were stretched to the limit. Most worked for days with little sleep while trying to keep up with demands for services. To their credit, they all rose to the challenge and did commendable work for our community. Special recognition goes to the members of the Police Department, all of our fire departments, our EMS service and the DPW for their tireless efforts.

Another extremely noteworthy issue that occurred this fiscal year was the approval, by our voters, of a \$7.4 million debt exclusion for the construction of a new police station. It has been well document and well known for many years that the current facility was sorely inadequate. Attempts at passing a debt exclusion override for this purpose were unsuccessful in 2001 and 2002. With the assistance of Reinhardt Associates of Agawam, a needs assessment and feasibility study was conducted. A conceptual design was developed and was presented to the community at various forums. On June 10, 2012 at the town's annual elections, a ballot question asked the voters to approve the debt exclusion. This question received overwhelming approval and passed by a vote of 976 to 596. My heartfelt thanks to the voters and taxpayers of the town who supported this much-needed project.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Police Department for their diligent and determined efforts to provide services to our community. Thanks, too, to Town Council President Paul Burns and all of the council members for their ongoing support. A special thank you to Town Manager Charles T. Blanchard for his leadership and guidance on the many issues that have confronted him in his first year as our manager. Also, many thanks to the town's fire departments and fire chiefs, DPW Director Craig Dolan and his staff, and all the other town offices and departments for their support and cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Frydryk  
Chief of Police

PALMER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT - FY2012

**OFFENSES (IBR) BY MONTH**

OFFENSE (IBR)	FY 2012											JUN	TOTALS
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY		
ARSON												1	1
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	10	3	13	5		3	1	2	9	1	9	2	58
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	13	19	23	16	19	14	8	10	25	17	13	20	187
BAD CHECKS				4		1							5
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	5	5	3	14	10	5	6	12	14	9	12	15	110
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	2	2			1			2	3	1	12		23
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER CRIME	1	1			4							2	8
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	10	15	6	9	4	4	8	2	8	5	8	9	88
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	8	8	10	8	14	14	5	1	6	27	7	11	116
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	5	7	6	4	5	7	4	2	4	6	5	4	59
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	2	3	2	12	7	8	6	4	17	9	2	5	77
DRUNKENNESS	21	14	15	8	16	11	11	13	13	18	17	20	177
EXTORTION / BLACKMAIL							1						1
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE						2	1	3			1	1	8
FAMILY OFFENSES, NONVIOLENT						1	1	3			1	1	2
FORCIBLE FONDLING			1								1		6
FORCIBLE RAPE			1								1		4
FORCIBLE SODOMY							2						2
IMPERSOONATION				4		2	3	1	2	1		1	14
INTIMIDATION			4	3	6	10	9	10	3	1	9	4	44
KIDNAPPING / ABDUCTION					5		2		3		1		1
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	2		1		1	1	2	2	3	2	3	1	19
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	3				1								1
POCKET-PICKING					1								1
PURSE-SNATCHING						1							1
ROBBERY					4	1	1						6
RUNAWAY							1				1	1	1
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT							1				1	1	3
SHOPLIFTING								4				1	11
STATUTORY RAPE											1	1	1
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES			2		1	1		1			1	1	5
THEFT FROM BUILDING	2		4		3	4		1			1	3	17
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	2	2	2	3	1	4	3	1		16	1	1	36
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES	1	2					1				2		6
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	54	51	46	50	36	60	43	45	56	58	46	36	581
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	1	2	1	9	4	35
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	2	2	4	15	1	1	4	1			2	5	37
ALL OTHER LARCENY	11	11	6	5	7	8	6	5	8	5	10	10	92
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	21	15	12	18	15	12	12	20	17	14	10	12	178
<b>TOTAL</b>	185	174	173	189	158	170	136	133	249	182	224	188	2,134

PALMER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT – FY2012

**PRIORITARY ARRESTING OFFENSE BY MONTH**

ARRESTING OFFENSE (IBR)	FY 2012												TOTALS
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
ARSON													1
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	2	2	5	5	1		1	1	1	1	3	2	23
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	12	10	16	11	14	12	5	5	14	12	7	18	136
BAD CHECKS	1				1								2
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	1		1	1			2	1	5	1		1	13
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY				1					1		1	2	5
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	2	3			1	1			2	1	2	1	10
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	7	3	4	1	3	2	1	2	11	4	3	3	44
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	5	2	4	4	5	7	2	2	4	2	2	3	42
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	1	2	1	3	1	2			3	3	1	1	18
DRUNKENNESS	21	14	15	9	16	11	11	13	13	18	17	20	178
EXTORTION / BLACKMAIL								1					1
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE / CO									2				2
FORCIBLE FONDLING										1			1
FORCIBLE RAPE		1											1
INTIMIDATION		1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	1		3		1		1	1	1	1	3	1	11
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT							1				1	1	3
POCKET-PICKING				1								1	1
ROBBERY		2	1										3
RUNAWAY												1	1
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT											1	1	1
SHOPLIFTING	3	1					2	1			1		6
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES					1	1					1		3
THEFT FROM BUILDING		2		1							1		3
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE						1							1
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES	1												1
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	17	18	17	16	13	19	19	18	21	21	19	12	210
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	3		4	3	1		1	1			7	3	23
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	2	2	1		1	1	2		3	3		1	8
ALL OTHER LARCENY	4	5			1	1							19
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	15	12	5	12	7	8	12	13	12	11	5	11	123
MONTHLY TOTALS	91	78	77	72	70	72	60	60	94	79	72	84	909

**PALMER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT – FY2012  
OFFENSES (IN ARRESTS) BY AGE GROUP**

OFFENSE	FY2012						TOTALS
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	
ARSON		1					1
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED		4	6	7	6		23
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	4	14	32	35	47	4	136
BAD CHECKS			1	1			2
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING			6	2	5		13
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY			3	1	1		5
CURFEW / LOITERING / VAGRANCY							
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	3	3	2	2			10
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	3	14	14	13			44
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE		5	14	20	3		42
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	3	3	6	4	2		18
DRUNKENNESS	2	42	31	94	9		178
EXTORTION / BLACKMAIL					1		1
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE / CO		1	1				2
FORCIBLE FONDLING			1				1
FORCIBLE RAPE					1		1
INTIMIDATION	4	1	2	3	3		13
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	4	6		1			11
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT			1	1	1		3
POCKET-PICKING					1		1
ROBBERY		1			2		3
RUNAWAY	1						1
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT				1			1
SHOPLIFTING	1	3	2	2			8
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1	1			1		3
THEFT FROM BUILDING	1	2					3
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE				1			1
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES			1				1
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	5	66	65	61	13		210
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	3	9	4	6	1		23
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	1	3	1	2	1		8
ALL OTHER LARCENY	2	3	8	6			19
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	5	30	42	43	3		123
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>909</b>

PALMER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT – FY2012

**WEAPONS INVOLVED IN OFFENSES**

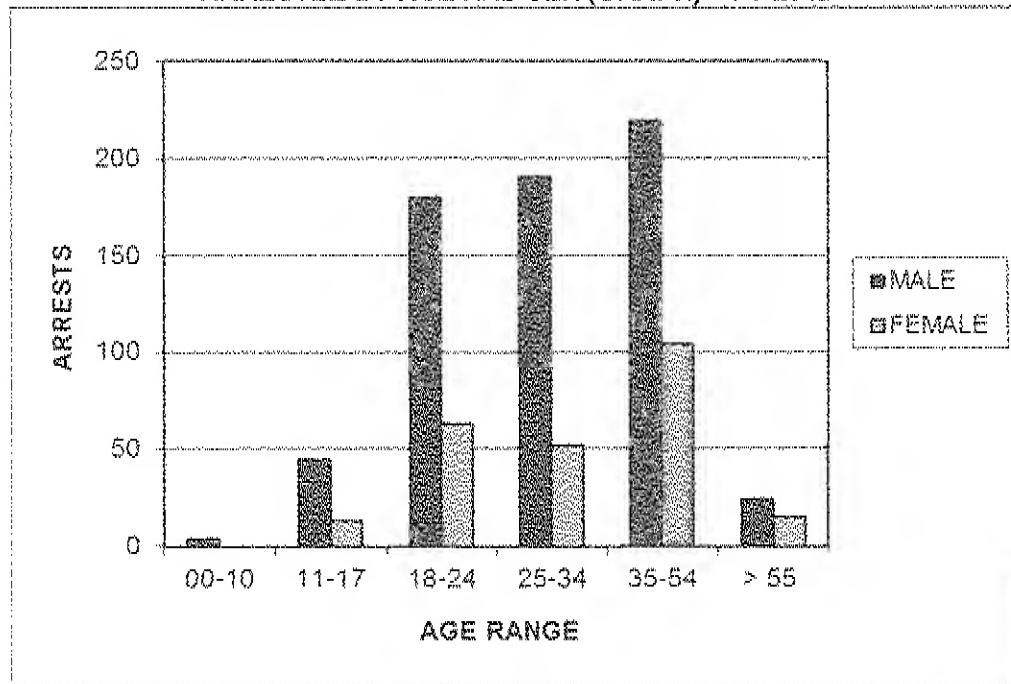
Weapon Type	Occurrences	Percentage
None	1825	85.60%
Personal Weapons (Hands/Feet/Etc)	204	9.57%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	24	1.13%
Firearm (Unspecified)	18	0.84%
Blunt Object	17	0.80%
Other	16	0.75%
Rifle	6	0.28%
Shotgun	6	0.28%
Handgun	5	0.23%
Handgun (Automatic)	4	0.19%
Motor Vehicle	3	0.14%
Other Firearm	2	0.09%
Shotgun (Automatic)	2	0.09%
<b>Total Occurrences</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## ARRESTEE RACE AND SEX BY AGE

FY2012

RACE/SEX	AGE GROUP						Hispanic
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>							
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Black</b>							
Female	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
Male	0	0	13	9	9	2	33
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>American Indian/Alaskan Native</b>							
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Unknown</b>							
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>White</b>							
Female	0	11	62	52	104	15	244
Male	4	45	167	181	210	22	629
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>909</b>
							<b>42</b>

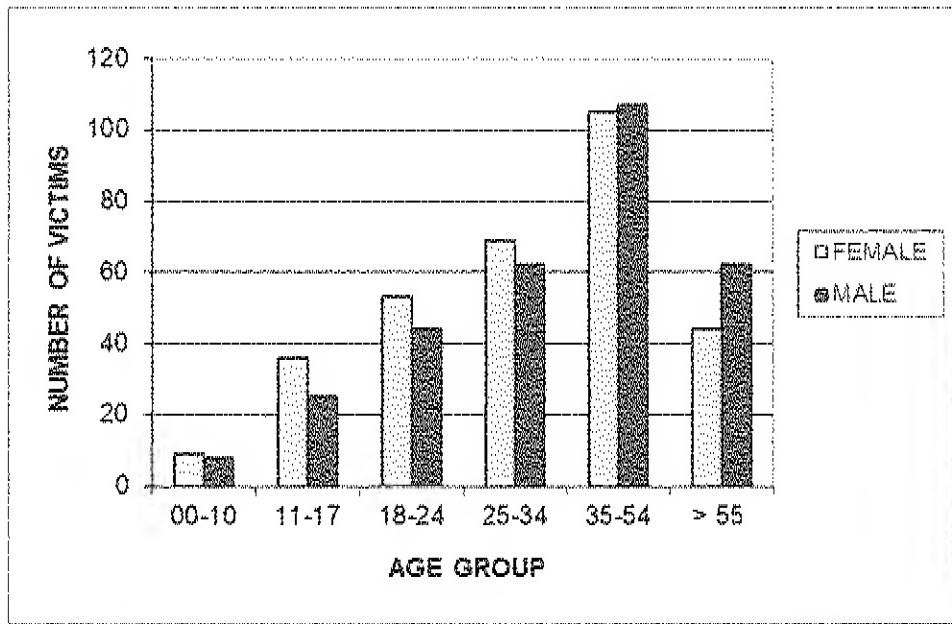
## ARRESTEE BY AGE AND SEX (GRAPH) – FY 2012



### VICTIMS BY AGE / SEX / RACE

RACE/SEX	AGE GROUP						TOTALS	Hispanic
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55		
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Black</b>								
Female	2	1	1	0	1	0	5	0
Male	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>American Indian/Alaskan Native</b>								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Unknown</b>								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>White</b>								
Female	7	35	52	69	104	44	311	6
Male	8	25	43	61	106	62	305	6
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>12</b>

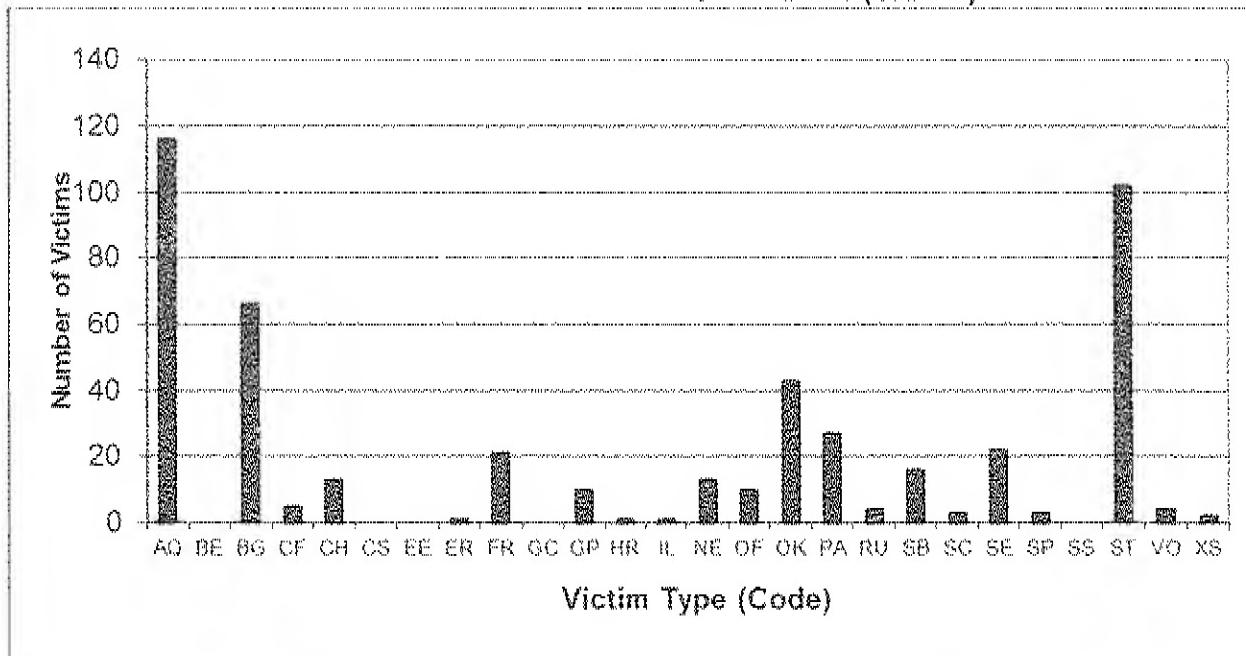
### VICTIMS BY AGE GROUP AND SEX (GRAPH) – FY 2012



### RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS

CODE	RELATIONSHIP	TOTALS	CODE	RELATIONSHIP	TOTALS
AQ	Acquaintance	116	NE	Neighbor	13
BE	Babysitter	0	OF	Other Family Member	10
BG	Boy/Girl Friend	66	OK	Otherwise Known	43
CF	Child of Boy/Girl Friend	5	PA	Parent	27
CH	Child	13	RU	Relationship Unknown	4
CS	Common-Law Spouse	0	SB	Sibling	16
EE	Employee	0	SC	Stepchild	3
ER	Employer	1	SE	Spouse	22
FR	Friend	21	SP	Stepparent	3
GC	Grandchild	0	SS	Stepsibling	0
GP	Grandparent	10	ST	Stranger	102
HR	Homosexual Relationship	1	VO	Victim was Offender	4
IL	In-Law	1	XS	Ex-Spouse	2
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>483</b>

### RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS (GRAPH)



### VICTIM INJURIES

Injury Type	Occurrence(s)	Percentage
None	166	57.84%
Apparent Minor Injury	112	39.02%
Possible Internal Injuries	3	1.05%
Apparent Broken Bones	2	0.70%
Severe Laceration	2	0.70%
Other Major Injury	2	0.70%
<b>Total Occurrences</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a federally mandated committee that will help our community protect public health, safety, and the environment from chemical hazards. The LEPC will become the focal point for all activities involved with Title III, Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act. The following activities will become the primary responsibility of the LEPC; data collection and information management, development of an emergency response plan, data collection on accidental chemical release, dealing with public inquiries about the risks of a chemical release, and to increase public awareness about the presence of hazardous materials within the Town of Palmer.

I have attended meetings and seminars sponsored by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to ensure that we are current on emergency planning and hazardous materials response procedures. We continue to maintain and update the town's master plan for hazardous materials response and conduct drills for response agencies. Required administrative and emergency personnel have been tested and certified in the National Incident Management System. The LEPC has been attending meetings as participants of the newly created Quaboag Valley Regional Emergency Planning Committee. It is our goal to not only focus on hazardous materials, but to utilize an "all hazards" principle to better serve the region. Our objective is to become a more efficient system by sharing information, ideas, and resources within surrounding communities.

Chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction present new dangers to first responders and the public. Local emergency response agencies attend training and seminars to be prepared in the event of an emergency. The Palmer Fire Department maintains a federally funded Mass Decontamination Unit in partnership with the UMass Wing Memorial Hospital. All Firefighters, Fire Officers, and hospital personnel have completed training on this unit. We have received grant funds to operate and maintain inventory for the mass decon unit.

I would like to recognize the private and public agencies that are members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee:

Town Manager's Office, Town Council, Palmer Police Department, Palmer, Three Rivers, Bondsville Fire Departments, Board of Health, Department of Public Works, Office of Emergency Management, Conservation Committee, Palmer School Department, UMass/Wing Hospital, Palmer Waste Water Treatment, Palmer, Three Rivers, Bondsville, Thorndike Water Departments, Palmer Ambulance Service, Inc., and community representatives.

In closing, I thank all the agencies and representatives who have taken their own time to attend meetings held throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan J. Roy, Chairman  
Local Emergency Planning Committee

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**Highway – Parks – Cemetery - Wastewater**

Overview - The Department of Public Works is beginning to emerge from what has been a long term downturn in terms of budget cuts and reduction in resources. Actions taken over several previous years have had the effect of reducing staffing levels and thus the level of service that the department can provide to the Town. The previous budget cuts combined with the fact that the average age of DPW workers is quite high (as a further consequence of those cuts, i.e. little hiring in recent years) has caused the department to restrict activities to only those that are critical to the well being of the Town overall. The DPW has done all that it can to maintain and provide essential services and has done so quite well under the circumstances. Given the beginning of budget restoration in FY 13 and the forecast that such restoration might continue into the future it is our hope that the effects of the work of the department will be more broadly seen in the coming years.

Significant Events/Achievements - With little doubt, the most significant event that has affected the DPW and the Town in the previous year was the October 29, 2011 storm. That storm produced on the order of 14 inches of snowfall in about eight hours which caused significant damage to trees that hadn't yet lost their leaves. Many tree branches, large limbs and entire trees were felled as a result causing widespread power outages. Many of the power outages in the outlying parts of Town lasted for nearly a week causing many residents to seek public shelter which was provided at Converse Middle School. After clearing the initial snow to the extent possible with trees and power lines down all over the Town, the DPW engaged in progressively clearing the roads of both snow and debris while also assisting power restoration crews to get to targeted locations. This effort, which was constrained primarily to daylight hours, provided reasonable town-wide access within about 48 hours. The work of clearing the public right-of-way continued until all power had been restored nearly a week later and then the effort transitioned into clearing and removing all roadside debris. This work took place from early November until mid-December. In total about 75,000 cubic yards of vegetative matter and other debris was collected and ultimately disposed. As a matter of perspective, this quantity of material would completely cover a football field and be 40 feet deep over its entirety. While some portion of this work was conducted by DPW forces, the majority was done by outside contractors using specialized equipment. The cost of this effort was on the order of \$2,700,000, reimbursement of which has been sought through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The further effects of this event include:

- Significant damage was sustained to DPW (primarily Highway Division) equipment in effecting the initial response as well as the debris collection.
- Both the Parks Division and the Cemetery Division had significant tree damage and need for debris removal. Among other losses, a 100+ year old oak tree was lost at the Oak Knoll Cemetery.
- The wastewater treatment plant along with its remote pump stations was operated on emergency generators for nearly a week's time thus preventing overflow of untreated waste into the receiving waters.

Five Year Capital Planning Cycle - In conjunction with the interests that we share with the Town Manager, we have embarked upon a five year planning effort with the intent of maintaining an "evergreen" five year capital plan. This plan will apply to all DPW equipment (rolling stock) needs on one hand as well as construction needs (Chapter 90 roads, Parks & Cemetery) and fixed equipment as required in the WWTP. Our expectation is that we will be able to plan for necessary expenditures over that term so as to allow the town to adjust its finances to meet these needs.

Tree Work - Primarily as a function and consequence of the 10/29/11 storm, a priority has been placed upon tree removal and trimming over the recent past and into the future. Despite that funding for this work ("forestry") hasn't been augmented, we will continue to put priority on getting significant trimming and removal accomplished at least for the next two or three fiscal years.

Drainage Problems/Improvements - There are numerous drainage problems that have existed around the town for some years. The DPW has investigated several of these and is taking action to resolve those that are the Town's responsibility. We are also working with property owners/residents where responsibility isn't so clear, with the intent to reconcile as many of these situations as possible in the near term to reduce the drag they produce on Town productivity over the longer term.

Improved Coordination with Utilities - A substantial effort has been made to improve information exchange and coordination with utilities, particularly National Grid, in the wake of the 10/29/11 event. We anticipate that this improved coordination will produce positive results for the Town and its well-being over the long term.

Bridges - The Town is responsible for the maintenance of a dozen bridges scattered about the Town. In reviewing bi-annual bridge inspection reports provided by MaDot it is clear that the Town faces a substantial need to rehabilitate/reconstruct several of its bridges. We are evaluating and prioritizing those needs with an eye toward putting a program in place to effect the necessary construction and repair work in a timely fashion. A draft of this program along with identification of the initial resources needed to carry it out should be completed in FY 13.

DPW Current Status - All DPW divisions have been continuing to operate with reasonable effectiveness during the recent downturn. The Highway division has maintained its crucial responsibilities despite significant personnel shortages. The Parks division has continued to uphold its ever-increasing obligations to school and outside athletic leagues with diminished staff, and both Parks and Cemetery

have effectively utilized part-time employees along with innovative funding activities to hold forth during difficult times. The WWTP, funded by a separate mechanism, has not faced the serious personnel shortages encountered by the other divisions but has met the challenge of aging facilities without service interruption.

DPW Outlook - So long as the Town can sustain the limited economic improvements that have been brought to bear for FY 13 the future can be slightly brighter. There remain substantial personnel and equipment needs that will require adequate funding in the near term in order for the DPW to attain the versatility and strength to continue to provide both basic and improved service across the Town. As a final comment, while the Town's true, direct resources have been and continue to be a challenge, both the resourcefulness and commitment to the Town demonstrated by many regular, civic-minded citizens is cause for optimism for the future.

Respectfully Submitted  
Craig Dolan  
DPW Director

### **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY**

Now that the sewer separation projects are completed, the next tasks in our NPDES permit are to identify and remove infiltration and inflow (I/I) in the sewer system. A few examples of I/I are roof leaders that connected to the sewer system and high ground water levels infiltrating into the older sections of the system. This work will be tedious and expensive.

Capital improvements of our currently facilities have begun. In FY 2012, a new standby emergency generator was installed to replace the original 32-year-old generator at one of our ten pumping stations. Fiscal year 2013 will have a new generator replaced at the main treatment plant. After the main plant replacement, we have another seven generators to replace in the upcoming years. All of these generators were original equipment when the treatment facilities opened in 1980.

We have begun the process to apply for low interest funding through Massachusetts's state revolving fund (SRF) so we can replace problematic areas of the sewer system that have outlived their life expectancy. This process is very competitive and we will have to demonstrate the need for Palmer to be included in the program.

I would like to thank my staff at the wastewater treatment plant and the sewer division for their dedication, cooperation, and professionalism that they demonstrate on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Skowronek  
Superintendent  
Palmer Water Pollution Control Facilities

### **PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Committed to its role as a community center, the Palmer Public Library provides a gathering space and a variety of materials to meet the personal, educational, and cultural needs of its

patrons in a safe and comfortable setting. In partnership with other local organizations, the library encourages and supports a love of reading and life-long learning with attention to the changing needs of the community.

The library's programs and services are vital to our citizens during this period of economic uncertainty. Over 9,236 citizens are registered borrowers of our town library. The library offers free access to all individuals and maintains a website for access from home or work to a variety of resources.

The Palmer Public Library received a 3.5 budget cut (\$23,975) for FY 2012 and, as a result, the library was faced with many difficult decisions that have impacted library services to our community and patrons. The most difficult decision involved the reduction of library operating hours from 48 hours per week to 44. This decision was not easy but deemed necessary as a result of staff reductions and the need to reduce operational costs. The Library has withstood three consecutive years of budget cuts for a total of \$77,671. On a daily basis, the Palmer Public Library strives to face our current economic challenges with a positive approach and with Yankee ingenuity.

Change was not only evident in our budgetary circumstances but also in our local weather which dramatically affected us and surrounding communities this past year. In early June, the region suffered a destructive tornado; our neighbor Monson was hit especially hard. During the month of July, all library fines collected were donated to the Monson Free Library. August brought Hurricane Irene; October saw a Nor'easter Ice Storm devastate our area for weeks with power outages and downed tree limbs. The Palmer Public Library rose to the challenge by offering outstanding service, help information, internet access including WI-FI, charging cell-phones, comfy seating, and a warm and inviting place for the public impacted by this storm.

Current library programming strives to include all ages from preschoolers to senior citizens. The Summer Reading Program, *One World, Many Stories*, offers many enjoyable opportunities for everyone. The 2011 theme attracted 712 participants who registered and logged over 23,785 days of reading. 1,364 people attended 36 programs. Guest performers and presenters included the Pumpernickel Puppets, Keith Michael Johnson as The Bubbleologist, and the Toe Jam Puppet Band. These programs were funded in part by a grant from the Palmer Cultural Council through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Other sponsors included the Massachusetts Library System, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Friends of the Palmer Public Library, Country Bank for Savings, and the Boston Bruins. In addition, free t-shirts for all participants were made possible through generous donations from 30 local businesses and organizations.

In August, Carol Holden, retired as borrower Services Librarian. Her twenty-four years of dedicated service will be fondly remembered and appreciated by both staff and patrons. Other weekly programs for children, held from September through March, included a toddler playgroup for children under age 3, and story-times for 3- and 4-year-olds. Old Mill Pond School hosted an after-school reading/craft pilot program in conjunction with the library and the Scantic Valley YMCA.

At the library's Annual Association meeting held in October, the Mary McManus Award was presented to Bill and Donna Mullen. This couple has made a difference in many young people's lives through their many years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of the Pioneer Valley.

In December, our Teen Advisory Board hosted their annual Gingerbread House Workshop, which seems to grow in popularity with every passing year. This group was also responsible for creating the library's Food for Fines display, which allowed patrons to pay off fines with food donations. Over 529 pounds of food was collected and donated to Palmer's Food Share program along with 200 scarves, mittens, and hats from our Mitten Tree. The Friends of the Palmer Public Library sponsored a Holiday Raffle to benefit library programming. Items donated included a Kindle, a Christmas tree, a Lenox China Holiday Train and an afghan.

Programs appealing to adults were several book readings, signings by local authors, a Polish genealogy program by Sandra Nichols, the Wicked Wednesday Mystery book club, and *Two Centuries on the Boston & Albany* conducted by noted railroad historian and photographer, Brian Solomon. In October, Robert Ring, chair of the Historical Commission, in collaboration with the library, led a walking tour of Depot Village. Programs funded by The Palmer Cultural Council included a pastel painting event and a *Write Night* workshop led by local author, Suzanne Strempek Shea and her husband, Springfield Republican columnist Tommy Shea.

In support of adult programming and literacy, the library offers space and resources for learning opportunities available through Top Floor Learning. This vital organization located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the library offers adult literacy programs and lifelong learning courses and workshops. Fundraising and volunteerism are essential to the services offered by the library. The library is fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers who help with summer reading tasks, cleaning library materials, and organizing and shelving books for sale at the Library Loft Bookstore. Proceeds from bookstore sales continued to fund library projects operation, including youth programming.

Circulation of library materials is accomplished through membership in C/W Mars (Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing). In late May, the library and C/W Mars joined together with two other Massachusetts Networks to implement Evergreen, a new platform for our library's system software. All library-lending materials can be accessed through a single catalog. Features include a patron dashboard where they can view their checkouts, holds, and items to be picked up. They can also create and publish a list for others to see of their book and movie recommendations. Through this system, patrons can download e-books, audio and DVD titles, request books on-line to be delivered to the library of choice, and access the catalogs of over 140 libraries. In FY 2012, Palmer loaned 21,539 items to other libraries and borrowed 9,629 items for our patrons from other libraries.

As a community center, the library offers meeting spaces to local organizations and individuals. This year, room reservations reached 692. The monthly local artist's exhibit in our Community Room continues to be popular with the public.

#### **Holdings Information**

##### **HOLDINGS INFORMATION**

Books	49,223
Volumes of print periodicals, newspapers	3,107
Compact discs, cassettes, play-aways	6,525
Video cassettes, DVD's	5,047
E-books	6,358
Downloadable audio, music etc	2,722
Materials in electronic format (CD'Rom's)	170
Microfilm	116
Miscellaneous	529
Total	74,064

#### CIRCULATION INFORMATION

Books	68,770
Print periodicals, newspapers	2,453
Compact discs, cassettes, play-aways	16,292
Video cassettes, DVD's	30,150
E-books	1,249
Downloadable audio, music etc	283
Materials in electronic format	347
Miscellaneous	783
Total	120,327

#### SERVICES INFORMATION

Total hours open	2,143
Total Saturdays open	36
Total Saturday hours	108
Total hours open after 5 p.m.	1,386
Number of reference transactions	21,944
Number of children's programs held	63
Number of adult and YA programs held	71
Total number of persons volunteering	60
Estimated number of hours volunteered	1,500
Number of registered borrowers	13,762

#### INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC SERVICES

Wireless access	
Computer terminals for public use	42
Number of uses of public computers during a typical week	609

Nancy Menard, library director resigned in June for personal reasons.

The library has had to make adjustments to its operating schedule due to budget constraints. Through increasing demands for service and programs, a shortage of several staff positions, and reduced hours, library personnel continue to rise to the challenge of providing the best in library and community services to our patrons. Our ability to continue to function as the community center, dedicated to providing our patrons with access to numerous informational sources, is accomplished through the hard work and commitment of our Staff, Board of Directors, the Railroad Advisory Board, Palmer DPW and with the continued support of the Town Officials and the Palmer community.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bernat  
Assistant Director

## **PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Enrollment in the three schools continues to decline. The rate of decline is at a rate that was projected by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). Currently, Old Mill Pond School has an enrollment of 659 students in grades PreK – 4. Converse Middle School's enrollment is 391 for grades 5 – 7. As of June 30, 2012, Palmer High School serves 525 students between grades 8 – 12.

### **Palmer High School**

On October 1, 2011, a two year progress report was submitted to the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc. (NEASC). This report provided information on the progress on implementing the evaluation report. At the January 22-23, 2012 NEASC meeting voted to accept the Two-Year Progress Report from the Palmer High School.

The Palmer High School was commended on the following:

- The design and implementation of a process for the regular review of the school's mission and expectations for student learning
- The development of a process to communicate with the entire community about the school's core values, beliefs, and learning expectations.
- The use of the rewritten core values, beliefs, and learning expectations to guide the development of the school's three-year school improvement plan
- The adoption of an Understanding By Design template for all curriculum
- The professional development provided to teachers in differentiated instruction to facilitate personalization of instruction
- The initial steps taken to ensure all curricula is integrated and emphasizes depth of understanding

- The professional development to teachers to improve curriculum design and instructional practices
- The addition of the position of director of guidance and additional leadership provided for the Special Education Department
- The process developed to expand AP enrollments and making classes more inclusive
- The development and implementation of a comprehensive guidance curriculum
- The implementation of a student advisory program
- The installation of a new phone network
- The replacement of a new roof membrane

The school must submit a Special progress Report due February 1, 2013 addressing the following recommendations:

- Submit the document which identifies which departments have taken responsibility for specific school-wide academic learning expectations
- Confirm that the curriculum template includes the school's learning expectations and assessment practices
- Ensure the library media center is available to teachers and students before, during, and after school
- Develop a comprehensive plan to ensure effective curricular coordination and articulation between and among all academic areas within the school as well as with sending schools in the district
- Develop a process for assessing the school's achievement of its civic and social expectations
- Report on the implementation of a formal program for teachers to meet collaboratively to discuss and share student work

The class of 2012 received their diplomas on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in the high school auditorium. Ninety-five seniors matriculated with 81% attending either a 4 year or a 2 year college. In our 2012 graduating class 34% of our college bound students are pursuing majors in science and medical fields. The top twenty seniors in the class were honored and recognized by the Palmer Rotary Club at the annual Student Achievement Luncheon. The Rotary presented two scholarships at the luncheon. Seniors were rewarded for their years of hard work, effort, and academic success at the annual Awards and Scholarship Night where over \$46,000 was awarded in scholarships. This year, Bob's Furniture awarded scholarships to ten seniors. This was as a result of the successful Blood Banks hosted at Palmer High School and organized and run by retired high school principal, Alphonse Murray. Academic and athletic awards were presented to seniors and underclassmen during the Annual Class Day Ceremony, held on June 1st. We sincerely appreciate the generosity extended to our seniors by the numerous individuals, families, and organizations of Palmer.

Palmer High School students continue to perform well on both the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics portions of the Spring 2012 MCAS test. One hundred percent (100%) of the graduating class received a competency determination requirement established by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to receive a diploma. While 94% of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 100% of the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade passed the ELA portion of the MCAS, 78% and 91% of the students respectfully were in the Proficient or the Advanced categories. In Math 85 % of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and

99% of the 10<sup>th</sup> Graders passed the MCAS, with 58% and 86% receiving advanced or proficient scores respectfully. On the Science and Technology MCAS 86% of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade passed the Science MCAS with 32 % receiving Advanced or Proficient scores. In the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, 96% of the students passed the Introduction to Physics MCAS with 66% of the students receiving Advanced or Proficient scores. The percentage of graduating seniors attending post-secondary institutions remains high at 81%.

The Palmer High School completed its first year under the new Extended Block Schedule. This allows students the time and structure needed to successfully learn and utilize the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and writing. The change to the block scheduling was made to create a structure that increases collaboration among staff and the integration of curriculum across disciplines. The block schedule was also pursued to increase the amount of teaching opportunities for staff and allow the creation of more electives to meet the needs and interests of our students.

The Advanced Placement Program continues to grow and flourish at Palmer High School, thanks to the partnership forged with the Mass. Math and Science Initiative (MMSI). Our AP Math, Science, and English classes received additional support and record number of students enrolling in AP courses. We quadrupled the number of AP enrollment this past year and look forward to its continuing growth. The grant offered teacher training by the College Board familiarizing our teachers with AP curriculum, advanced instructional practices, and current technologies. An AP breakfast was sponsored by MMSI to support our students in the AP program to congratulate them for their hard work and dedication along with wishing them well on the upcoming AP exams.

Participation in the Gateway to College program at Holyoke Community College provided 7 students, who were at risk for dropping out, with the opportunity to complete their High School Diploma as well as acquire college credits. Three of our Gateway to College students graduated accumulating 70 college credits amongst them. This was the first year of its implementation and we look forward to our continuing partnership. Through our School to Career Program, we provided the opportunity for work based experiences for 10 upperclassmen. We anticipate the growth of the program over the next year to double in size.

Palmer High hosted a September Open House for parents, November Parent Conference night, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Lions Club Speech Contest, the student drama production of "North Woods Nonsense", and "Got Talent" talent show. In honor of College and Career Awareness Month in October, we sponsored a College Fair in conjunction with a myriad of activities that focused on college and career readiness. Over 75 schools shared information about their Colleges and Universities with the juniors and seniors. We offered a second semester Open House in February. For the fourth year, a team of Palmer High School students competed in "As Schools Match Wits". Our Music Department performed at various events throughout the year: Eastern States Exposition, the fall concert, Festival of Bands and Choruses in December, the QVMEA concert hosted here at Palmer High School, the Spring Concert, and the Memorial Day parade. We sent 6 representatives, 3 each, to the Massachusetts Boys and Girls State for 2012 hosted by Stone Hill College. The Palmer High School hosted the Step Up Day for our incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In strengthening our bond with the senior community, PHS hosted a

Grandparents/Grand Friend Thanksgiving luncheon and was entertained with a concert in the auditorium.

Several of the athletic teams achieved milestones for the 2011-2012 school year. The majority of the Varsity Teams for all three seasons qualified for post season play! The Girls' Varsity Basketball Team claimed the Division II Title and advanced to State play. Mr. Shawn Gersbach was awarded the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association 2011-2012 Coach of the Year.

The Palmer United Booster Club and the Music Boosters were very active during the year. There were several fundraisers conducted, as well as recognition banquets for the student athletes and music students. Special thanks are extended to the members of both clubs for their time, hard work, and creative ideas for the benefit of the student body!

The 2011-2012 Palmer High School Council worked collaboratively with administration to develop a new three-year school improvement plan that serves to compel the school in the decision making process. This plan starts and ends with the Palmer High School goals for student learning. All school initiatives and priorities continue to focus on preparing our students "for living, learning, and working in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". The composition of the Council consisted of: Mary Lou Callahan, Principal; Heather Bish, and Fred Dileone, Staff Members; Officer Whalers, Erin Pincince, and Barbara Barry, Community Representatives; Andrea Mastalerz, Adam Brewer, and Jacqui Mastriani, Parent Representatives; Alexis Swist, Student Representative, and Ex-Officio member, Joseph Bianca, Assistant Principal.

We appreciate and applaud the contributions of our staff members, parents, and community members in promoting life long learning skills and making a difference in the lives of our students.

#### Converse Middle School

The 2011-2012 school year was a year of continued commitment to the learning and success of every student in grades five, six, and seven including their success on the MCAS. Students in grade five were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, Math, and Science & Technology/Engineering. Students in grade six were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension and Math, and grade seven students were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, ELA Long Composition, and Math. The staff at Converse worked hard to have the students well prepared and the students put forth a serious effort. Converse maintained a favorable 'Level 2' status as assigned by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Extensive data analysis and work was done through the Performance Improvement Mapping System (PIMS) process to develop appropriate SMART goals for the Converse Middle School Improvement Plan. The focus of this process was to specifically address Math, English Language Arts, as well as Science MCAS goals. In addition, the Math and ELA teachers have participated in extensive professional development in our process of 'unwrapping' the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Math and English Language Arts and Literacy.

Converse had a new assistant principal appointed for the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Susan A. North, formerly a first grade teacher with seventeen years of teaching experience at the Old Mill Pond School, was a wonderful addition to the administrative team.

The Cougar's Den after school program has continued to be both a successful and valuable resource to many Converse students. Students have the option to stay for an extended day that provides them with the opportunity for extra help, study centers, as well as a variety of educational and fun learning activities. The Cougar's Den staff has been supportive of the learning needs of Converse students in their design of specific math and ELA goals. Funding is a critical issue for this program – they have continued to seek out fundraising and grant opportunities to maintain their level of support to the students. The support of the community has meant a great deal to the Cougar's Den program, Converse students and their families.

The Converse Middle School PTO has continued to provide significant support to the students and staff. Their fundraising activities have provided significant financial support of students' educational based field trips, cultural activities and assemblies. The PTO has also continued to support and organize the 'Step-Up' Ceremony for the seventh grade students. Each seventh grade student was presented with a gift of a scientific calculator that should be quite useful to them as they enter eighth grade at Palmer High School. The PTO also supports the Converse Spring Fling each year as well as supporting our Yearbook that is produced each year. There are many parents and volunteers who provide many, many hours of work and support behind the scenes for the PTO and Converse – we cannot thank them enough for their support – it makes a big difference!

#### Old Mill Pond School

At Old Mill Pond School 86% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the spring 2012 MCAS Reading test, with 43% of students in the advanced and proficient categories. Eighty-three percent of 4<sup>th</sup> graders passed the ELA test, and 43% achieved in the advanced or proficient categories. On the MCAS Mathematics test, 79% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 83% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders passed the test with 56% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 43% of 4th graders in the advanced or proficient categories. OMP was designated as a Level 3 school by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for based on the 2010/2011 performance in the aggregate and in subgroups both in ELA and in MA. Student attendance continues to hover around 95%.

#### Special Education

The Department of Special Services includes all special education programs, Title I programs, English as a Second Language Programs, home and hospital tutoring, and Chapter 622 (discrimination). The department is responsible for the screening and evaluation of children between the ages of 3 and 21 for possible special needs. We are also responsible for writing many of the school systems state and federal grants.

The Palmer Public Schools are an Early Childhood through Grade 12 School District and is a member of the Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical School District. It offers a full range of special needs programs at all levels beginning with an integrated preschool and continuing services through graduation providing transition planning services for students who do not graduate with a diploma. The department provides a full range of support services, including

speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral support services and school adjustment counseling. Services for low incidence children are contracted annually as prescribed by the student's Individual Educational Plans.

For the Department of Special Services, the 2012 school year was one of continued program improvement and development. In March, the district underwent a comprehensive audit by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This audit reviewed our policies and procedures in the areas of Special Education, English Learner Education, Title I, and Civil Rights. The report, received in the Fall of 2010, required the district to create a corrective action plan for Special Education, English Learner Education and Civil Rights. As of September 2011, the district had satisfied all compliance issues in both Special Education and Civil Rights. The department continues to work on corrective action for our English Language Learners and is looking to increase support to this subgroup during the 2012-2013 school year.

Our Special Education enrollment is currently 315 students. This decrease in students on IEP is due in part to lower enrollment district wide. In addition, referrals at the elementary school have been reduced with new programs, such as Walk to Read, providing early intervention for students that allow them to remain in their general education program. The school system continues its effort, on the part of each of the schools, to meet children's needs within the classroom. When this is not possible, each school provides a variety of options to meet the needs of students while allowing them to remain in their own community. Programs at each level are available for students with language based learning needs, intellectual delays, physical handicaps and emotional disabilities. Each school now offers life skills curriculums and support for social-emotional development. Alternative education programs in each building address the needs of students at risk for failure or at risk of dropping out. Special education students have equal access to these programs through the building principals.

State and federal grants written and supervised by the department continue to assist in defraying some of the costs of special education. The Federal Special Education Grant, #240 (94-142) continues to fully fund the cost of one of our Early Childhood Programs and a number of paraprofessional instructional assistant positions. The State Early Childhood Grant, #262, provides speech assistance and screening services to children enrolled in private preschool programs and other early childhood age groups. The Federal Title I Grant, #305, continues to provide remedial reading and math services to eligible youngsters in grades 3-7. The entire grant is committed to staff salaries and instructional materials, including technology. This program provides services to approximately 200 youngsters in the elementary and middle schools. In addition to services provided during the school day, Grant 305 provided funding for an afterschool MCAS preparation program for qualifying students in grades 3 through 7. Grant 632/625 provided funding for the high school to run a summer school program for students struggling to pass the ELA, Math and Science High School MCAS.

The Department of Special Services continues to advocate for the education of all children in the least restrictive environment and to the maximum degree possible.

#### Facilities

The Facilities Department oversees the work performance of maintenance and custodial members in the school buildings, school bus transportation services, facility rentals, grounds upkeep and facility maintenance and improvements.

The buildings and grounds are in use virtually 7 days a week and well into the late evening by many civic and private groups in addition to the school programs.

Palmer High School and Converse Middle School received new roofing membranes and additional insulation. Thanks to an MSBA (Mass. School Building Authority) Green Grant, the cost of the project was reimbursed by 68%.

Extensive training with personnel regarding emergency and safety procedures relating to building infrastructure continues to be one of our major focal points.

As always, we cannot express enough how truly grateful we are to the other town departments who continually provide outstanding support, services and expertise.

Special thanks to the Parks and Highway Departments for all they do year round with the grounds. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The district is functioning as a Level 3 School District due to past performance regarding the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Preliminary results indicate Converse Middle School has improved performance and achievement during the past year bringing it to a status Level 1 school. Palmer High School has maintained an achievement status of Level 2. Due to the impact of certain subgroups, Old Mill Pond became a Level 3 school, resulting in the district obtaining the same overall status. As a Level 3 district, additional grant funding was provided to this district to be used for increased professional development to improved teaching skills and assessment scores. This professional development was intensive during the 2011-2012 school year and will continue throughout the coming school year. Additional information and detailed test scores can be found on the Palmer Public Schools' website by clicking on the Office of the Superintendent link.

A new superintendent search was conducted during the 2011-2012 school year. The new superintendent was appointed in November and began his term on January 1, 2012. The superintendent has a 3½ year contract.

The School Department budget continues to be above the required minimum, however, funding does not allow for significant improvements in class sizes, equipment or supplies. Grants continue to provide approximately \$1 million in additional funding, however, due to federal and state cutbacks, grant funds have been reduced. While funding is adequate, additional funds are necessary to realize significant improvements in critical instructional areas.

The School Committee, administration, faculty, and staff remain committed to the children of the Palmer Public Schools. Every effort has been made to provide our students with a safe, clean

and engaging school environment. We encourage parents, the community and businesses to join us as we serve our community of learners in the coming years.

Respectfully,

Palmer School Committee

Maureen Gallagher, Chair  
James St. Amand, Vice Chair  
David M. Lynch, Member  
Robert Janasiewicz, Member  
Gary Blanchette, Member

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

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The Department of Special Services continues to advocate for the education of all children in the least restrictive environment and to the maximum degree possible.

### **PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee presents this report to the citizens of the District. At the November 2010 state election, incumbents Michael Cavanaugh (Palmer) and Barbara Ray (Ware) were re-elected. Having previously been appointed to fill vacancies, William E. Johnson (Granby), Lorraine Alves (Belchertown), and Andrew Jaffee (Monson) were elected to four-year terms. Voters also chose Julie Quink who succeeds Robert Dupuis from Hardwick. In Pathfinder's newest town of Oakham, Lisa Starbard was appointed to serve through the November 2012 election. Michael Cavanaugh and David Droz, both of Palmer, will continue as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

### **CURRICULUM**

Pathfinder students have continued to demonstrate improvement in their performance and achievement on the MCAS tests. The percentage of Pathfinder students scoring in the Advanced and Proficient range in all 3 areas—English, Math, and Science has shown steady progress over

the past four years. The percentage of students scoring in the Advanced and Proficient range in English has risen from 52% in 2008 to 72% in 2011. The improvement in Math (67%-69% and Science (49%-62%) was also positive. This improvement has also resulted in the school being judged as making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all four student subgroups (Aggregate and Special Populations for both English and Math). This represents a very positive improvement from last year, when the district did not make AYP in 3 of the 4 categories.

Pathfinder is making progress in its effort to increase the rigor of the academic offerings for students. The introduction of an honors curriculum for all academic areas began during the 2009-2010 school year with honors-level courses being offered in English, Mathematics, Science, History, and Spanish for ninth grade students. During 2011, the English, Mathematics, Science, and Spanish programs added honors-level classes for eleventh grade.

To further strengthen the reading program, Pathfinder introduced *System 44*. This program is similar to *Read 180* (installed last year) in its intensive approach to the study of reading for students who are reading below grade level when they enter Pathfinder. Incoming ninth grade students with reading deficiencies as identified by standardized testing are assigned to one of two levels of the *Read 180* program as an alternative to ninth grade English. The *System 44* component is aimed at students whose reading level is at the first to third grade level. This program has shown impressive results in districts throughout the country; students have been able to show gains of up to three years' improvement in the reading level after just one year in the program.

The school's affiliations with area hospitals and health care facilities continued to provide positive learning experiences for the students, and the expansion of the program has proven to be very successful.

#### **MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS:**

- Automotive technology students performed maintenance services for the Palmer Dare cruiser.
- Auto Collision Technology students and their instructor continued to organize and run the annual Pathfinder Car Show. This event is held on Pathfinder grounds and benefits the Skills USA program at Pathfinder.
- Auto Reconditioning students continued to provide services for police, highway, fire and water districts in member towns.
- Building Services students continued to provide regular maintenance services at Pathfinder.
- Cosmetology students have been going to the Hawthorne House in Ware on a monthly basis to provide a "Spa Day" for residents. Students give haircuts, manicures and style hair. On occasion, they provide the same services at the Palmer Senior Center.

- Culinary Arts students continue to prepare and serve meals for the “Elderly Lunch Program” at Pathfinder. Instructors and student continued to provide food and services to local and civic events in the Pathfinder Tea Room.
- Electrical students completed a major project at Quaboag Regional High School in Warren.
- Electronics technology students and instructors along with school staff hosted the FIRST robotics state championship for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- Students and staff from the culinary program assisted the Monson tornado relief effort by preparing sandwiches and serving people helping with the cleanup effort in June.

Nineteen students participated in the school’s Cooperative Education Program which provides opportunities for paid, career-related jobs *in lieu* of attending their vocational classes. In this real work environment, the students enhanced their technical skills, developed interpersonal skills, and experienced valuable lessons in maintaining a balance with their personal lives, school academics, and their jobs. Co-op continues to be an excellent pathway to full-time employment.

Placing students in the current economy has been a challenge. Nevertheless, the school is committed to providing students with this invaluable opportunity and intends to work closely with area businesses to expand the program.

### **STUDENT BODY**

Pathfinder’s enrollment as of October 1, 2011 totaled 658 students, including the following numbers from member towns: Belchertown 107; Granby 16; Hardwick 21; Monson 92; New Braintree 12; Oakham 16; Palmer 198; Ware 88; and Warren 52. The remaining students were residents of out-of-district communities, the largest number of students coming from Ludlow (28) and West Brookfield (10) respectively. The 658 figure in October represents an increase of 23 students overall from the number reported on October 1, 2010.

The Guidance Office—which also serves as the Admissions Office—once again received far more applications for the 180 ninth grade openings than the school could accommodate. Transfer opportunities into the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grades were also very limited. Consequently, the school experienced another year of waiting lists for each grade.

Parents of students seeking to learn more about Pathfinder or to visit the school had a variety of options available to them throughout the year. In October and November, Pathfinder’s guidance counselors visited the 8th graders in our member towns to provide an in-depth presentation about Pathfinder’s offerings and the application process. In late November, an evening Open House event was held for 5th-8th graders and their parents. The event featured a free dinner and a tour of the facility, including a visit to technical areas of interest.

In addition to the fall events, each winter 8th graders who are interested are invited to participate in a field trip with their school counselor to visit Pathfinder and get a first-hand look at technical programs, facilities, and to interact with current students. This visit is a great opportunity for the students to experience a typical day at Pathfinder. This year a larger number of students

participated in these tours than the previous year. The summer Youth Enrichment Program continued to attract large numbers of enthusiastic participants. For students and parents with Internet access, Pathfinder's newly designed website ([www.pathfindertech.org](http://www.pathfindertech.org)) provides detailed information about our academic and technical programs, sports, and extracurricular activities, as well as the application process. A copy of the application can be downloaded and printed.

The Pathfinder Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society inducted a deserving group of new and existing members in an impressive ceremony. To qualify, students must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above and exhibit the qualities of skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. The induction ceremony is held in early spring so that senior inductees can include this recognition on college, scholarship, and work applications. The Chapter continued the practice of inviting as guests underclass students who had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and who demonstrated potential for induction into the Society.

Pathfinder's Renaissance Program continued to be well received by staff and students alike. A faculty committee chaired by Judy Mercier oversees this popular initiative. Each trimester, the program recognizes and rewards students for academic and vocational accomplishments. Students who earn high honors are eligible for a "Gold Card;" students earning honors receive a "Silver Card;" and students who have made noticeable improvements are awarded "Most Improved Cards." Students who have perfect attendance for the year are also eligible for Renaissance recognition. Each level of card comes with its own perks and rewards ranging from homework passes, to free admission to school dances, to discounts at local businesses. In addition, each trimester Renaissance students earn raffle tickets toward the end- of- the- year drawing for prizes like music systems and gift cards. The Renaissance Program is supported through fundraising efforts, assistance from the school committee, as well as generous donations from local businesses. Recently, many faculty members have become involved by providing classroom incentives and rewards for Renaissance card holders.

At the twenty-fourth Annual "Outstanding Vocational-Technical Student" awards dinner sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA), AJ Czuprynski of Ludlow represented Pathfinder. AJ, a student in the Computer Programming and Web Design Program, was ranked at the top of the graduating class. With a GPA of 3.91, AJ consistently earned high honors and Renaissance Gold Card recognition and received numerous awards for outstanding achievement and excellence in vocational and academic studies. He was also the recipient of the Presidential Certificate for Outstanding Performance in the area of Programming and Web Design. He was planning to attend Fitchburg State University in the fall.

Josh Deland of Monson was also the recipient of the Presidential Certificate for Outstanding Performance in the area of Programming and Web Design. Josh will be entering Springfield Technical Community College in the Fall.

Dillon Oster of Wales was selected as Pathfinder's nominee for the 2010 Massachusetts Vocational Association's Student Achievement Award. Dillon is a graduate of Pathfinder's Culinary Arts program. Dillon will be entering the military in the fall.

In June 2011, the graduating class of 128 students received diplomas and technical certificates at commencement exercises. Graduates received 60 awards totaling \$18,650, and more than \$160,000 in scholarships from schools and colleges was announced. Once again, state and local organizations and businesses, post-secondary institutions, as well as private individuals, continued to recognize the ability and potential of Pathfinder graduates in the form of generous donations. The school committee, administration-- and particularly the graduates-- are grateful for this support and are especially proud of the number of awards that have been made to honor the memory of former Pathfinder students and staff members.

#### **ANNUAL STUDENT ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Students returned after the holiday break eager to start. A pasta dinner/ fundraiser sponsored by Olive Garden was a huge success! Students helped cook and serve the dinner which was used as a fundraiser by the freshman class. The more than 240 people who attended enjoyed the pasta dinner, breadsticks and salad.

A blood drive was held on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> and again on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Over 195 pints of blood were collected (combined with a fall blood drive). The drive reached a 30% student participation goal. Two students-- Taylor Brosseau and Monique Piquette-- were awarded \$500 scholarships each from the Bob's Red Cross Scholarship Fund.

Also in March the class of 2013 had a carwash/bake sale/can drive at the school. Dances and other fundraisers filled up the winter months.

The Junior Prom was held at the Lusitano Club in Ludlow on May 6th. Senior students had their Senior Banquet at the Hampden Country Club on May 13<sup>th</sup> and a senior picnic on senior sign - out day, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Seniors feasted on burgers and dogs, salads, soda and dessert.

Senior Class Day was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Renaissance Committee chaired by Judy Mercier handed out prizes to lucky Renaissance students. Prizes consisted of Walmart gift cards, movie tickets, a season pass to Six Flags, and a DVD player. Students were chosen randomly and were thrilled with their prizes.

The 2011-2012 school year began on August 3st. Class advisors met to establish parameters for fund raising. SKILLS planned their annual car show for September. The end of October brought a disastrous winter storm with a week- long leave from school, disrupting many activities. Junior prom committee meetings and senior officers' meeting to obtain their annual senior privileges took place in November and December.

#### **ATHLETICS**

Pathfinder once again had close to 200 students participate in athletic programs throughout this past year. Pathfinder athletes participated in the first season of co-op winter sport teams – swimming (boys and girls) with Palmer High School and wrestling with Ware and Palmer High School.

#### Highlights for the year were:

- The varsity boys' basketball team qualified for the MIAA Western Mass. Tournament.
- The varsity girls' basketball team qualified for the MIAA Western Mass. Tournament.
- The wrestling team had their first full season as a co-op host with Palmer and Ware. Jake Paull and Jacob Straight both won the Western Mass. Tournament and qualified for the states. Jacob Straight went on to win the State Tournament and finished fourth in New England. Both Jake Paull and Jacob Straight were first team all scholastic selections by the Springfield *Republican*.
- The varsity baseball team returned to the MIAA Western Mass. Tournament after a 3 year absence.
- The varsity girls' softball team qualified for the MIAA Western Mass. Tournament. Megan Masko, Jenna Masko and Kat Morgan were named as first team all scholastic softball players by the Springfield *Republican* newspaper.
- Andrew Letendre and Samantha Dickson were selected as Pathfinder's outstanding male and female senior athletes for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Varsity football players Greg Pobieglo and Trystan Davis ranked in the top two performers of Western Mass. football. Pobieglo was second ranked for passing yardage as a quarterback, and Davis was number one in receiving yardage and touchdown receptions.

#### SPECIAL SERVICES

During 2011, Special Education Director JoAnn Fitzpatrick, retired after many years in the Pathfinder Regional School District. Nicole Heroux, replaced her as the new Director in the Special Education Department. Nicole had experience as a past Director of Student Support Services, working for the Department of Education in the Program Quality Assurance Department, and being both a Vice Principal and Principal. Nicole and her staff are currently in the process of evaluating all current programs and services. The goal is to demonstrate its responsibility to provide a continuum of special education and related services for eligible students in accordance with the provisions of state and federal regulations. The Department continues to be committed to finding opportunities to offer different pathways to learning so that the diverse ability levels of the students might be accommodated.

The Special Education Department strives to address the needs of *all* learners in grades 9-12 and to the students previously enrolled in the Modified Vocational Instruction Program (MVIP). Given the results of the District's Coordinated Program Review, the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) is now fully implemented. Pathfinder no longer has a *formalized* program called MVIP. Through continued integrated efforts with students, parents, and other student support services, the Department focuses on promoting each student's self-awareness, ability to self-advocate, and sense of self sufficiency. All students admitted to Pathfinder are expected to fulfill the same

requirements to receive a high school diploma, and all students must have access to all academic and vocational programs. The staff at Pathfinder is working to develop a program for the students who were previously in an MVIP program to insure their success at the school.

Team chairpersons conducted Team evaluations, annual reviews and re-evaluations for over two hundred and four (204) special needs students. The Department continued to be responsible for approximately fifty (50) students who have 504 Accommodation Plans. Section 504 is a federal civil rights law which requires the provision of reasonable accommodations to students and staff who qualify as disabled under the law.

The Department includes fifteen (15) academic or vocational professionally licensed instructors, nine (9) paraprofessionals, and one full-time secretary. Licensed specialists include a Speech and Language Pathologist, School Adjustment Counselor, and Occupational Therapist.

Work continues on the collaboration between special and general educators.

#### **GRANTS, DONATIONS AND CONTRACTS**

Source	Amount	Acquisitions/ Products
ARRA Emergency Stimulus Funds	\$84,765	Replenish shortfall
Pathfinder Booster Club	\$6,000	Vertimax Machine
Special Education Grant	\$230,248	1 Math, 1 ELA inclusion model teacher, evals, ESPED. Materials, 5 Alpha Smarts
Title I – ARRA	\$64,342	Quadrant D Staff Training, Summer Transition Program, Further BC Collaboration, Smart Boards
Special Ed – ARRA	\$25,626	<i>Pilot Understanding Your Disability and Taking Responsibility for Your Own Education project – Fund SPED position, Diagnostic Software</i>
Title I	\$131,105	ELA and Math Inclusion instructor. Shop week tutor
Teacher Quality	\$27,690	Retain highly qualified Staff Member, tutoring for 2 not yet HQ Teachers
Anti -Bullying	\$650	Teacher training

Title I Carry-over	\$56,066	System 44 Reading Lab Multiple Smart Boards
WIA – Year Round	\$70,000	Provide meaningful summer jobs for 32 participants and year round jobs for 4.
Academic Support	\$23,600	MCAS PREP and remediation for 22 Pathfinder 9th Graders
Carl Perkins Funds	\$91,028	Retain Drafting/CAD Teacher, <i>Project Lead the Way</i> , Professional Development, Smart Board 3 Credit Class, Fully operational Career Center
EduJobs	\$113,364	Partially pay teachers' Health Insurance
Total	\$924,484	

The major portion of one- time or last- time funding went to upgrading technology.

Pathfinder now boasts a Smart Board in every academic classroom where requested by the teacher.

Additionally, Apperson Data Collection machines have been purchased, strategically located, and teachers have been trained in the technology.

A fully operational Career Center employing the MASS Model has been installed in Room 223.

A 10 -Station Math Computer lab was installed in Room 224.

A two -year school- wide site license (Study Island - entire Curriculum) was purchased for remediation, enrichment and credit recovery

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The Summer Youth Enrichment Program served over 120 children between the ages of 9 and 13. The program ran for three one-week sessions between July 11<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>. Participants had the opportunity to select from the following options: automotive technology, carpentry, cosmetology, electronics, environmental explorers, photography & web design, mad science, vex robotics, bake shop, and culinary arts. The daily schedule placed participants in their specialty areas in the morning with sports, games, or crafts in the afternoon.

Parent and student satisfaction with the Youth Enrichment Programs has been extraordinary. Many students return to the program several times and express regret when they become too old to participate. It serves as an excellent introduction to Pathfinder and its environment.

Pathfinder's summer school program is designed to enable students to make up information missed during the school year and earn credit needed for their promotion or graduation. The academic summer school program was offered during the month of July, and the vocational related in August. It ran Monday through Friday with two morning sessions, each two hours long. A total of 40 hours in attendance was required for completing the program. Additionally, two students had two made up 30 hours in an employee skills program which ran for 30 hours in August. Ninety students were enrolled in fifteen academic courses, 13 in vocational course work, and 2 students were making up hours. The combined summer school enrollment included 105 students from 10 school districts.

#### **FACULTY AND STAFF**

Currently the Pathfinder staff consists of 44 vocational teachers, 26 academic teachers, 10 special education teachers, 2 counselors, a library-media specialist, and 11 aides. The school is managed by a group of 9 professional administrators as well as a full-time grants coordinator.

Historically, Pathfinder has been justly proud of the stability of its faculty and staff. It was therefore unusual to experience 4 four resignations over the summer and a larger than usual number of veteran teachers choosing to retire.

In June, the school said farewell to retirees James Maisto, JoAnn McDiarmid, and Wayne Meacham. In early fall, Michael Bernat, William Paquette, Raymond Johnson and JoAnn Fitzpatrick joined them in retirement.

Dr. Paist continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and on the Board of Directors of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. An active member of the Assn. for Career & Technical Education, he is one of three Region I Directors for that organization's National Council of Local Administrators

#### **BUDGET AND FINANCE**

The school committee adopted a FY12 budget of \$12,489,474, representing a 1.85% increase over FY11. For the two previous fiscal years the budget had shown a zero percent increase. Eight of the nine District member communities subsequently approved their assessments. Consequently, the budget was approved pursuant to the regional school budget statute.

The unpredictability of state's regional school transportation reimbursement has continued for the fourth fiscal year, making budgetary estimations a continuing concern throughout the year. The state's current transportation reimbursement estimation is approximately 52% and the administration continues to monitor the state for any adjustments which correspondingly affect the current fiscal year's budget.

Additionally, changes in Medicaid reimbursement procedures have continued to reduce the annual state reimbursement. In FY10, Pathfinder received in excess of \$75,000.00 to subsidize the annual budget. For FY12, the amount is considerably less-- approximately \$30,000.00.

Lastly, Chapter 70 Aid from the Commonwealth continues to be a concern for upcoming FY13 as the state predicts level funding at best. Although Pathfinder saw an increase in Chapter 70 Aid of \$56,702 for FY12, it was due to an increase of in-district enrollment of 23 students. Finally, all state Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) and federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds (ARRA) came to an end in FY12 and will not be available in the future.

The following chart illustrates the FY12 assessments to each member community.

ASSESSMENT CALCULATION FY2012:						
TOWNS	MINIMUM CONT.	ADDITIONAL CONT.	SHARE OF REGULAR CAP.	1st YR OF 5 YR CAP PLAN	TRANS- PORTATION	TOTAL ASSESSMENT
Belchertown	\$576,337	\$272,642	\$10,983	\$19,237	\$56,692	\$935,891
Granby	\$140,227	\$56,306	\$2,268	\$7,953	\$11,708	\$218,463
Hardwick	\$95,948	\$50,379	\$2,029	\$2,981	\$10,476	\$161,813
Monson	\$561,180	\$269,678	\$10,863	\$10,302	\$56,076	\$908,099
New Braintree	\$67,397	\$23,708	\$955	\$1,191	\$4,930	\$98,181
Oakham	\$88,728	\$41,489	\$1,671	\$2,362	\$8,627	\$142,877
Palmer	\$1,131,352	\$571,955	\$23,040	\$13,081	\$118,930	\$1,858,357
Ware	\$517,320	\$269,678	\$10,863	\$10,544	\$56,076	\$864,481
Warren	\$228,399	\$157,065	\$6,327	\$6,372	\$32,659	\$430,823
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$3,406,888</b>	<b>\$1,712,902</b>	<b>\$69,000</b>	<b>\$74,022</b>	<b>\$356,173</b>	<b>\$5,618,985</b>

### **CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

The school committee is justly proud of the staff and students and of the contributions they have made to the economic health of our District. The committee recognizes that, in this era of accountability and high expectations, many changes need to be made. The increased emphasis on academic skills needs to be maintained without diminishing the quality of students' technical studies.

On January 3, 2011 Senator Brewer's office announced that Governor Patrick had signed Chapter 405 of the Acts of 2010, *An Act Validating Certain Proceedings of the Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical High School District*, the provisions of which admitted the town of Oakham to the District retroactive to July 1, 2010.

The committee is mindful of the prediction that FY13 fiscal picture will undoubtedly be the most challenging in recent memory. Despite this bleak outlook, however, the goal will be to preserve the quality of education that the students deserve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael J. Cavanaugh, (Palmer), Chairman  
Judith C. Dudek, (Belchertown)  
Lorraine F. Alves, (Belchertown)  
William E. Johnson, (Granby)  
Julie Quink, (Hardwick)  
Andrew I. Jaffee, (Monson)  
Duncan Stewart, (New Braintree)  
Lisa M. Stabard, (Oakham)  
David Droz, (Palmer)  
M. Barbara Ray, (Ware)  
Thomas Rugani, (Warren)

Gerald L. Paist, Superintendent-Director

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY  
AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE EMERGENCY - 911

For Questions Regarding:	Call this Department:	Phone:
Appeals (zoning issues)	Appeals, Board of	283-2605
Assessments, Abatements	Assessors, Board of	283-2607

Building Permits, Electric Permits, Plumbing, gas & wiring Permits, Zoning Enforcement	<b>Building Inspector</b>	283-2638
Burial Records, Cemetery Plots	<b>Cemetery</b>	283-2665
Emergency Preparedness, Catastrophe	<b>Civil Defense</b>	283-8792
Future planning for Palmer	<b>Community Development Dept. Palmer Redevelopment Authority</b>	283-2614 283-4100
Wetlands Management	<b>Conservation Commission</b>	283-2611
Senior activities, Information & Transportation	<b>Council on Aging</b>	283-2670
Animal Control	<b>Dog Officer</b>	283-7770
Health, Sanitation, Septic Permits/Title V, Food & Beverage License & Tobacco License	<b>Health, Board Of</b>	283-2606
Road Maintenance, snow & ice removal	<b>Department of Public Works</b>	283-2615
Alcohol Beverage Information	<b>License Commission</b>	283-2603
Federally funded elderly housing	<b>Palmer Housing Authority</b>	283-9311
All library services	<b>Palmer Public Library</b>	283-3330
Park & Field Maintenance	<b>Department of Public Works</b>	283-2615
Planning, Land Use, Zoning	<b>Planning Board</b>	283-2605
Public Schools	<b>Schools:</b>	
	<b>Converse Middle School</b>	283-2641
	<b>Old Mill Pond Elementary</b>	283-2630
	<b>Palmer High School</b>	283-2621
	<b>Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School</b>	283-9701
Scale, weight Certification	<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>	283-2650
	<b>Sealer of Weights &amp; Measures (Residence)</b>	283-4070
Committee Appointments, Class I, II & III Licenses, Amusement/Entertainment Licenses, Street Entrance, Street Excavation	<b>Town Manager</b>	283-2603
Parking Tickets, Property & Excise Tax Bills	<b>Tax Collector</b>	283-2601
General Accounting	<b>Town Accountant</b>	283-2602
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Dog Licenses, Business Certificates, Elections & Voter Registration	<b>Town Clerk</b>	283-2608
Bill Payment, Payroll, Insurance Benefits	<b>Town Treasurer</b>	283-2600
Veteran's Information/Referrals Benefits	<b>Veteran's Agent</b>	283-2610
<b>EMERGENCY NUMBERS - 911</b>	<b>Fire – Bondsville</b>	283-9036
	<b>Palmer</b>	283-3861
	<b>Three Rivers</b>	283-7161